توثيق ثورة مصر

مجموعة مختارة من مقالات الصحف المحلية والعالمية

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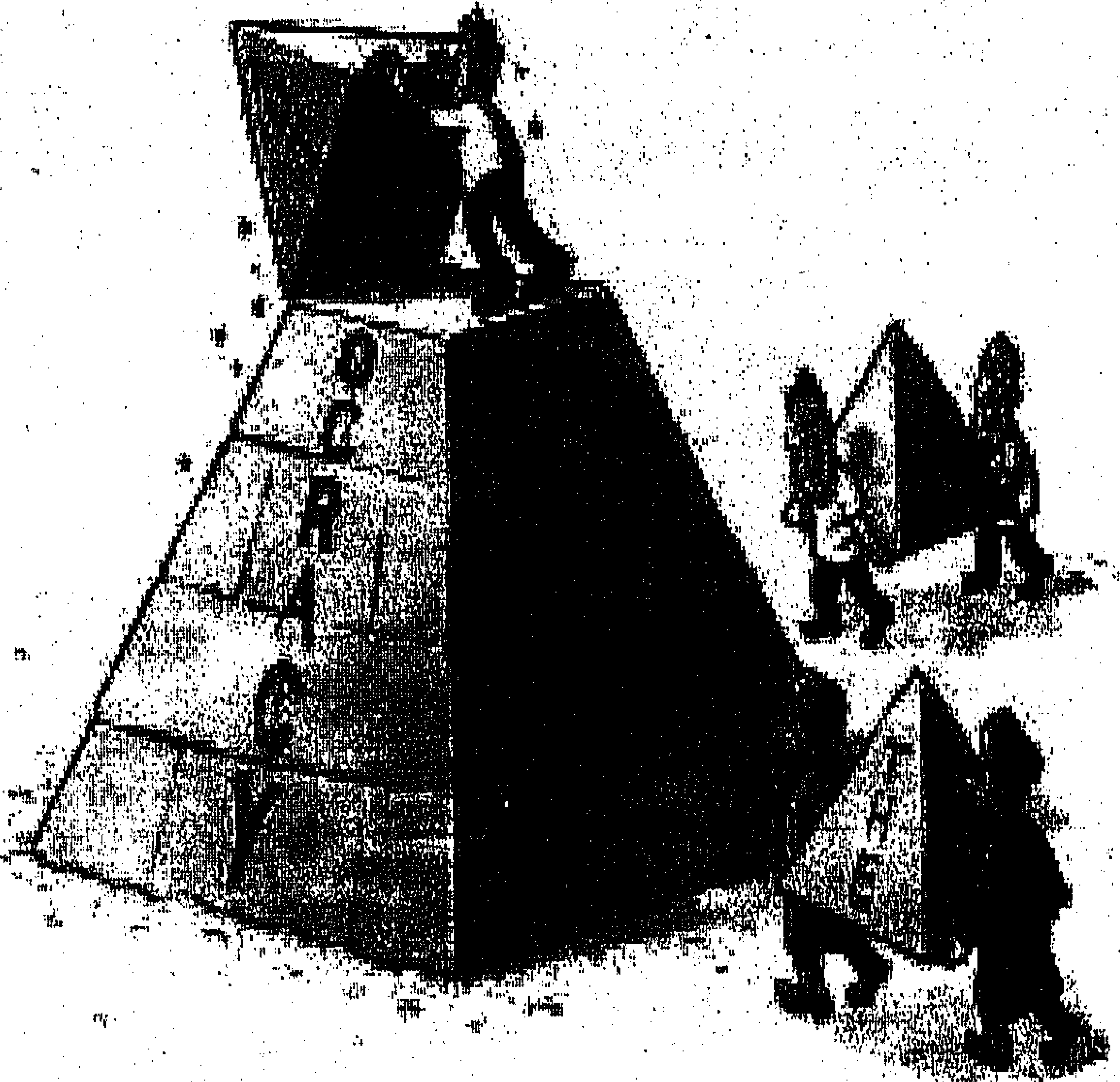
إعداد وتحرير

د. أشـرف قوطـة

كلية الآداب بدميط – جامعة المنصورة

٢٠١١

إلي أرواح شهدائنا الأبرار
الذين ضحوا بأغلي ما يملكون
من أجل مصر الغالية ...
رحم الله شهدائنا...
وعاشت مصر



قائمة الموضوعات

البدايـــــــــــــة

عـوامـل أدت إلـي الثــــورة

الأهرام: الأثنين ٢٣ من ذى الحجة ١٤٣١ هـ ٢٩ نوفمبر ٢٠١٠ السنة ١٣٥ العدد ٤٥٢٨٣

١٠٠ جنيه للصوت الانتخابي في القليوبية

القليوبية ــــ أشرف زيدان:

تبادل أنصار المرشحين الاتهامات وقال أحد أنصار احمد طاهر ياسين مرشح الوطني بالخانكة [أن هناك] تسويد لبطاقات التصويت بصورة جماعية لصالح منافسه الأخرللوطني محمد حرز الله المرشح الاساسي للوطني بقري العكارة والخصوص وعرب العليقات وابو زعبل مستغلين عدم وجود مندوبين له ورفض المسئولون في اللجان دخول مندوبيه الذين حصلوا علي توكيلات من الشهر العقاري بحجة عدم ختمها من مركز الشرطة مشيرا إلي ان لجنة كفر حمزة الشرقية تبعد عن الناخبين ٢ كيلو. وأكد مصطفي البقلي مرشح الوفد عمال بالخانكة وجود تصويت جماعي في لجان أبو زعبل وعرب العبابدة والخصوص وسرياقوس وطرد [مناديب] المعارضة والمحظورة من اللجان وشهدت لجان عمار بن ياسر قيام البلطجية بقذف الناخبين بالحجارة لإرهابهم مما اسفر عن إصابة ٥ مواطنين من بينهم طفل ٦ سنوات تم نقله للوحدة الصحية بالقلج وشهدت لجنة مدرسة أبو زعبل مشاجرة بين انصار مرشحي الوطني أحمد طاهر ياسين ومحمد حرز الله مع اغلاق كامل للجان القلج والدخول بالبطاقة الوردية فقط. وفي القناطر شهدت لجان أبو

بين عائلتي حجاب وابو شامة داخل اللجنة بسبب منع احدهم من التصويت مما ادي الي إصابة العديد من الطرفين. وفي بنها شهدت لجنة الرملة مسقط رأس المرشح جمال كوش مستقل عمال مشاجرة مع ضابطي شرطة بالايدي بسبب رفضهما دخول حاملي التوكيلات الخاصة به اللجان وانتهت المشكلة بدخولهم وشهدت بعض لجان القرية تسويد للبطاقات وارتفع سعر الصوت إلي ١٠٠ جنيه.

وفي طوخ شهدت لجنة كفر النخلة تصويتا جماعيا ووجود شيخ القرية وعدم وجود ستائر للتصويت خلفها,وفي قليوب شهدت قرية طنان مسقط رأس مرشح محمد عبدالحكيم شداد ونزيه الكمار عمال مستقلين اطلاق اعيرة نارية من وسط الزراعات من مجهولين ولم تسفر عن وجود اصابات وافتعل انصارهما مشاكل مع المناديب داخل اللجان وتدخلت قوات الأمن وطرد انصارهما من اللجان وايقاف أعمال التسويد لصالح المرشح الأول وتم تحرير محاضر اثبات حالة ومن المنتظر الغاء صناديق هذه اللجنة اثناء الفرز.

وفي بنها وفي قرية كفر الرجالات تحديدا اكد اسامة درويش مرشح الغد ابن القرية وجود ارتباك في عمليات التصويت بسبب مشكلات كشوف الناخبين وفي شبرا الخيمة كان هناك اقبال كبير من الناخبين وسادت مشاهد المشاجرات بين المرشحين وانصارهم وبعض المندوبين ورجال الشرطة وانصار الوطني.

المصري اليوم: الإثنين ٢٩ نوفمبر ٢٠١٠

النتائج الأولية: «الوطنى» يستحوذ و«الوفد» يفوز بـ٣ و«الإخوان» صفر

كشفت النتائج الأولية لفرز صناديق انتخابات مجلس الشعب عن فوز الحزب الوطنى بأغلبية مقاعد الجولة الأولى، فيما حصل حزب الوفد على ٣ مقاعد، ومقعد واحد لكل من أحزاب التجمع، والعدالة الاجتماعية، والغد، وخرجت جماعة الإخوان المسلمين خالية الوفاض، ولها ١٢ مرشحاً فى جولة الإعادة.

وبحسب النتائج الأولية يخوض حزب الوفد معركة الإعادة بحوالي ٤ مرشحين فقط، هم: فؤاد بدراوي، ورامي لكح، وطارق سباق، ومحمد المالكي، مع احتمالات الإعادة على مقعد إضافى بكفرالشيخ. ويخوض التجمع الجولة الثانية على ٦ مقاعد بمرشحيه عبدالعزيز شعبان، وعبدالحميد كمال، ورأفت سيف، وضياء رشوان، وعبدالفتاح محمد عبدالفتاح، وأحمد سليمان.

وشهد مقر الوفد اجتماعات مكثفة بين الدكتور السيد البدوي، رئيس الحزب، وعدد من القيادات، الذين طالبوا بإعلان الانسحاب من الانتخابات الرئاسية في ٢٠١١،

بعد فوز الحزب في الجولة الأولى بـــ٣ مقاعد فقط لكل من سفير نور، وسعد المليجي، وماجدة النويشي.

ووصفت جماعة الإخوان المسلمين الانتخابات بـــ«مهزلة»، وقال الدكتور محمد سعد الكتاتني، عضو مكتب الإرشاد، الذي خسر مقعده في المنيا، إن «النظام صنع برلماناً على مزاجه وليس لإرادة الناخب أي دور»، وأكد الكتاتني أن الجماعة لن تسكت على ما حدث وأنها ستكشف عن إجراءات ستتخدها في الأيام المقبلة.

واعتبر الدكتور رفعت السعيد، رئيس حزب التجمع، انتخابات ٢٠١٠ الأسوأ في تاريخ الحياة النيابية، بسبب شراء الأصوات والبلطجة وتقفيل الصناديق، وترويع رؤساء اللجان.

من جانبه، توقع صفوت الشريف، الأمين العام للحزب الوطني، أن تكون المنافسة فى الإعادة أقوى، وأضاف، في تصريح لوكالة أنباء الشرق الأوسط، أنه يجب عدم التسرع في الحكم على الانتخابات، وأنه لابد من الانتظار لحين انتهائها تماماً.

في سياق متصل، ارتفع عدد قتلى الانتخابات إلى ٩، بعد مصرع ٥ أثناء عمليات فرز الأصوات، إضافة إلى ٢٠ مصاباً.

ففي الشرقية، لقي ٥ مصرعهم، وأصيب ٣ آخرون بأعيرة نارية أمام لجنة الفرز بالمدرسة التجارية الثانوية في مدينة مشتول السوق.

وفي أسيوط، أصيب ٧ بدائرة القوصية، خلال تبادل لإطلاق النار وقذف بالحجارة مع قوات الأمن، التي استخدمت قنابل مسيلة للدموع والذخيرة الحية، لتفريق المتجمهرين أمام لجنة الفرز في شونة البنك الأهلي الزراعي.

وفي الدقهلية، أصيب ٧ مواطنين بالرصاص خلال مشاجرة بين أنصار محمد عبدالمعطى ومصطفى الجندي، المرشحين على مقعد العمال بدائرة تمي الأمديد، بعد إعلان فوز الأول، وتشكيك أنصار الأخير في النتيجة، وألقت قوات الأمن القبض على ٦ من المواطنين.

وفي بني سويف، أصيب أمين شرطة يدعى محمد عبدالحكم، من قوة مباحث أمن الدولة بالمحافظة، أثناء تصديه لـــ٤ بلطجية، كانوا يحملون السنج والمطاوى وأنبوبة بوتاجاز.

وفي قنا، أصيب ٢ من أهالي قرية المصالحة، خلال اشتباكات بالأسلحة النارية عقب إعلان فوز هشام الشعيني مرشح الوطني، وخوض السيد المنوفي جولة الإعادة.

وفي الغربية، تعرضت فتيات ينتمين لجماعة الإخوان المسلمين للاعتداء أثناء متابعتهن عملية الفرز في استاد المحلة، وسجلت «المصري اليوم» وقائع الاعتداء عليهن بالفيديو.

المصري اليوم: الأربعاء ١ ديسمبر ٢٠١٠

«الإخوان» تنسحب من انتخابات الإعادة .. و«الوفد» يدرس

محمود مسلم – أحمد الخطيب

قررت جماعة الإخوان المسلمين، ظهر الأربعاء، الانسحاب من جولة الإعادة لانتخابات مجلس الشعب المقررة الأحد المقبل، احتجاجاً على المخالفات والتجاوزات التي شهدتها الجولة الأولى.

من جانبه يدرس حزب الوفد في اجتماعه التنفيذى بعد ظهر الخميس طلبات بعض أعضاء الجمعية العمومية بالانسحاب من انتخابات الإعادة المقررة الأحد المقبل التى يخوضها الحزب على ٩ مقاعد بعد فوزه بمقعدين فى الجولة الأولى.

كانت أنباء قد ترددت الأربعاء بانسحاب حزب الوفد من الانتخابات، إلا أن فؤاد بدراوى، نائب رئيس الحزب، صرح لـ«المصرى اليوم» بأن أمر الانسحاب معروض على المكتب التنفيذى ظهر الخميس لاتخاذ قرار نهائي. وأضاف أنه يرى الاستمرار فى المعركة، وليس شرطاً أن يحصل الحزب على عدد كبير من المقاعد،

لافتاً إلى أن برلمان ١٩٣٨ كان نصيب الحزب منه ٤ مقاعد فقط، معلقاً على أن الانتخابات فى هذا المناخ السيىء وقلة عدد المقاعد التى حصل عليها الوفد أكبر دليل على عدم وجود صفقة بين الوفد والوطنى أو أى جهة أخرى فى الدولة. وأشار بدراوى إلى أنه لا يجب اتخاذ القرارات بانفعال وعصبية، خاصة أن الوفد «حزب مؤسسات».

المصري اليوم: الخميس ٢ ديسمبر ٢٠١٠

»الوفد« ينسحب من الإعادة.. و٥ مرشحين يرفضون القرار

محمد عبد القادر محسن سميكة محمود رمزي

قرر المكتب التنفيذى لحزب الوفد «فيما يشبه الإجماع» الانسحاب من جولة الإعادة لانتخابات مجلس الشعب، حيث وافق ١٣ من أعضاء المكتب على قرار الانسحاب، فيما رفضه النائب السابق طاهر حزين. كان الحزب عقد اجتماعاً موسعاً حضره جميع مرشحى الحزب الذين يخوضون جولة الإعادة والفائزين من الجولة الأولى، وبينما رفض قرار الانسحاب: عاطف الأشمونى وطارق سباق ومحمد المالكى وسفير نور، أيده محمد مصطفى شردى ورامى لكح وفؤاد بدراوى، وأصدر حزب الوفد بياناً، قال فيه: «تابعنا خلال الأيام العصيبة الأخيرة كيف صادر الحزب الحاكم البرلمان بأكمله، ظناً منه أن صندوق انتخاب باطل يمنحه مصداقية أو شرعية»، وتابع: «لقد اخترنا الطريق الأصعب، واعتقدنا أن هناك بين صفوف الحزب الوطنى من يؤمن بأن الأوطان تتقدم وتتطور بتقدم قواها السياسية، ويبدو أن علينا الاعتراف بأننا وقعنا ضحية أمنيات». وأضاف البيان: «الوفد سيبقى شريكاً لصالح أبناء هذا الوطن، لا متواطئاً عليهم، لقد اخترنا بالانسحاب أن نكون مع الشعب وليس مجلسه المزور، وسوف نظل نلاحق هذا المجلس بجميع الطرق القانونية حتى

نثبت بطلانه». وقال مرشحو حزب الوفد طارق سباق وماجدة النويشي وعاطف الأشموني ومحمد المالكي إنهم مستمرون في انتخابات الإعادة رغم قرار الحزب بالانسحاب، وقرر سفير نور البقاء في المجلس. ووصف مصدر بالحزب هذا الانسحاب بـــ «الإجراء السياسي.«

وكان الحزب شهد، أثناء اجتماع المكتب التنفيذي، مظاهرتين أمام مقره تدعو الأولى إلى المقاطعة ورددت هتافات «كرامة الوفد فوق كل اعتبار»، بينما طالبت الثانية بالاستمرار في الانتخابات، ورددوا هتافات «هنمنع التزوير.. الانسحاب مرفوض» و«يا بدوى نعاهدك.. شهداء على الصناديق.«

وقال الدكتور مفيد شهاب، وزير الشؤون القانونية والمجالس النيابية، إن قرار الانسحاب «موقف سلبي» لا يؤدي إلى تحرك للأمام بل إلى «الجمود.«

وأضاف، عقب استخراج كارنيه عضوية المجلس: «عندما لا يعجبك شيء تحرك وتظلم للجنة العليا والقضاء بدلاً من الانسحاب.«

من جانبه، قرر حزب التجمع الاستمرار في خوض جولة الإعادة، عقب اجتماع طارئ. وجاء القرار بفارق صوت واحد لصالح المؤيدين للاستمرار في الانتخابات.

وقال الدكتور إبراهيم درويش، الفقيه الدستورى، لـ«المصرى اليوم» إن انسحاب حزب الوفد من انتخابات الإعادة لا يعنى التنازل عن الترشيح، فالانسحاب فى أى وقت ليس عليه قيود، وإنما التنازل عن الترشيح مقرر له طبقاً لقرارات اللجنة العليا للانتخابات ٥ أيام قبل إجراء الانتخابات.

من جهته أكد الدكتور محمود كبيش، عميد كلية الحقوق بجامعة القاهرة، أنه طالما أخذت الهيئة العليا لحزب الوفد قرار المشاركة فى انتخابات مجلس الشعب ابتداء وهو ما حدث بالفعل، فإنها هى وحدها صاحبة الحق فى إصدار قرار الانسحاب من الانتخابات، وبناء عليه فإذا كان قرار الانسحاب صادراً من المكتب التنفيذى فهو لا يعد سوى مجرد توصية لابد من اعتماده من الهيئة العليا التى تختص بقرار الانسحاب من عدمه.

الوفد: الأحد ١٢ ديسمبر ٢٠١٠

مبارك: الانتخابات شهدت سلوكيات مرفوضة

قال الرئيس مبارك فى كلمته أمام اجتماع الهيئة البرلمانية للحزب الوطنى اليوم الأحد – إن انتخابات مجلس الشعب شهدت سلوكيات سلبية ومرفوضة من بعض المرشحين ومؤيديهم. وأضاف :إننا نسعى جاهدين لتغييرها إلى الأفضل، سلوكيات ندينها، حاولت الافتئات على إرادة الناخبين باستخدام المال واللجوء للعنف والترهيب.

وأشار إلى أن هذه السلوكيات والتجاوزات تعاملت معها اللجنة العليا للانتخابات بدور مسئول ومحايد ومتوازن، كما تعاملت معها أجهزة الدولة بما يضمن سلامة الانتخابات والناخبين. ولفت "مبارك " إلي أن الحزب الوطنى استعد للانتخابات الأخيرة بعمل تنظيمى جاد ومتجدد وأفرز قيادات وكوادر قادرة على تحمل المسئولية، وانتقل لمرحلة جديدة تضع الالتزام الحزبى فوق أى اعتبار آخر.

المصري اليوم: السبت ١١ ديسمبر ٢٠١٠

نواب سابقون يشكلون «برلماناً موازياً» والمعارضة تتوعد المجلس بالبطلان

عماد فؤاد

منير أديب

طارق صلاح

محمد غريب

محسن سميكة

أعلن ٨٦ نائباً سابقاً فى مجلس الشعب، من أبرز الخاسرين فى الانتخابات الأخيرة، تأسيس برلمان شعبى موازٍ، بينما توعدت قوى سياسية بملاحقة البرلمان الجديد بالدعاوى القضائية حتى يصدر قرار بحله، إلى جانب تنظيم وقفة احتجاجية الأحد، ووقفة ثانية بالتزامن مع افتتاح الدورة البرلمانية الجديدة الاثنين.

وطالب النواب الذين اجتمعوا، السبت، بمقر حزب الجبهة، لتشكيل البرلمان الموازى، ممثلين عن حزب الوفد والإخوان والمستقلين، الرئيس مبارك بحل مجلس الشعب، تنفيذاً لمئات الأحكام القضائية التى صدرت ببطلان الانتخابات.

ودعا النواب، فى بيان لهم، الجماهير إلى المشاركة فى الوقفة الاحتجاجية، المقرر تنظيمها الأحد أمام دار القضاء العالى، معلنين تنظيم اعتصام رمزى الاثنين، أمام

مجلس الدولة، للاحتجاج فى يوم انعقاد البرلمان على عدم تنفيذ أحكام بطلان فى [illegible] دائرة، تمثل ١٨٤ مقعداً فى المجلس الجديد، وتجعله فاقداً للنصاب القانونى وغير شرعى.

وشكل النواب لجنة تضم: د. محمد البلتاجى وسعد عبود ومصطفى بكرى وعلاء عبدالمنعم، للإشراف على عمل البرلمان الشعبى.

وفى مقر الكتلة البرلمانية للإخوان، عقد عدد من ممثلى الأحزاب والقوى السياسية مؤتمراً، أمس، شددوا فيه على الدعوة للاحتجاج اليوم، والمشاركة فى الاعتصام أمام مجلس الشعب والدولة غداً، بالتزامن مع انعقاد المجلس الجديد. وطالب بيان القوى السياسية، الذى ألقاه د. عبدالجليل مصطفى، المنسق العام للجمعية الوطنية للتغيير، ببطلان المجلس، وإبعاد القضاة عن الإشراف الصورى على الانتخابات.

وقال مصطفى: «يجب عدم الاعتراف بشرعية هذا المجلس وملاحقته أمام المحكمتين الدستورية والإدارية العليا». من جانبه، قال د. محمد بديع، مرشد الإخوان، إن الحزب الوطنى أصبح «محظوراً» بعد جرائم الانتخابات، وأضاف أن ساعة الحساب قادمة، لأن الحزب الوطنى رسب فى «هندسة الانتخابات»، وانتهى

بمجلس للحزب الوطنى وليس مجلساً للشعب، مؤكداً توافر أدلة ووثائق على التجاوزات فى الانتخابات، ستوضع أمام الجهات القضائية.

اليوم السابع الخميس، ٣٠ ديسمبر ٢٠١٠

رئيس تونس يزور الشاب المتسبب فى أعمال الشغب

كتب محمد طنطاوى

توجه الرئيس التونسى زين العابدين بن على إلى المستشفى، لزيارة الشاب محمد البوعزيزى الذى قام بإشعال النيران فى نفسه، احتجاجا على قيام السلطات المحلية بمنعه من بيع الخضار والفاكهة، مما دفع الشاب إلى إشعال النيران فى جسده احتجاجا على ذلك، وفقا لما ذكرته جريدة "الصباح" التونسية.

مما أدى إلى غضب المواطنين وتظاهرهم، خاصة أن هذا الحادث جاء بعد أسبوع واحد من إقدام شاب آخر على الانتحار، احتجاجا على البطالة، وسوء الأوضاع الاقتصادية فى المحافظات المختلفة.

واطمأن الرئيس التونسى خلال الزيارة على حالة الشاب الصحية، وأصدر أوامره لطاقم العلاج المشرف على الحالة بوضعه تحت الرعاية الصحية المركزة، كما أعرب زين العابدين عن شكره وامتنانه للطاقم الطبى لمجهوداتهم التى لمسها من خلال تلك الزيارة المفاجئة للاطمئنان على حالة الشاب.

وأكد الرئيس التونسى خلال كلمة بثتها الإذاعات والقنوات التليفزيونية التونسية "أن البطالة شغل شاغل لسائر بلدان العالم المتقدمة منها والنامية، ونحن نبذل كل الجهود للحد منها ومعالجة آثارها وتبعاتها، خصوصا بالنسبة إلى العائلات التى لا دخل لها، وستبذل الدولة جهودا إضافية فى هذا المجال خلال المدة القادمة.

المصري اليوم: السبت ١ يناير ٢٠١١

الإرهاب يشعل فتيل الفتنة فى الإسكندرية ويسقط ٢١ شهيداً مصرياً ليلة رأس السنة

عاشت الإسكندرية ليلة مرعبة، مساء الجمعة، بعد الانفجار الإجرامى الذى استهدف كنيسة القديسين مارمرقس والأنبا بطرس، عقب صلاة العام الجديد عند منتصف الليل بمنطقة سيدى بشر، فى الوقت الذى ارتفع فيه عدد الضحايا المصريين إلى ٢١ شهيداً ونحو ٧٩ مصاباً.

وبينما رجحت وزارة الداخلية فى بيان مبدئى أن تكون سيارة مفخخة وراء الحادث، كانت متوقفة أمام الكنيسة، عادت الوزارة لتفيد بأن الهجوم يرجح أن وراءه شخصاً انتحارياً كان يحمل عبوة ناسفة انفجرت، ولقى مصرعه ضمن الآخرين فى الحادث. وأشارت فى بيانها الثانى إلى إنه «تأكد عدم وجود نقطة ارتكاز للتفجير بإحدى السيارات أو بالطريق العام، بما يرجح أن العبوة التى انفجرت كانت محمولة من شخص انتحارى».

وفى حين فرضت أجهزة الأمن إجراءات مشددة على جميع الكنائس بمحافظات الجمهورية، وتكثيف الخدمات الأمنية، للتصدى لأى هجوم، قرر البابا شنودة إلغاء احتفالات عيد الميلاد، فيما أعلنت الكنائس عن إقامة «قداسات الغضب» للصلاة من

أجل الضحايا، واعتبرت الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية فى بيان لها الحادث «تصعيداً خطيراً» للأحداث الطائفية الموجهة ضد الأقباط، مشيراً إلى أن الكنيسة نفسها التى تعرضت للانفجار سبق أن تعرضت لحادث اعتداء قبل ٤ سنوات، أسفر عن قتيل وعدة إصابات، وقرر مجلس الشعب وقتها تشكيل لجنة تقصى الحقائق فى هذا الحادث،،ولكن هذه اللجنة لم تزر الكنيسة حتى الآن. وبينما أدت صدمة الحادث إلى غضب بين قيادات الكنيسة وروادها، وأدت إلى مشاحنات بينهم وبين أجهزة الأمن، حيث رفضت قيادات الكنيسة تسليم جثث الضحايا لسيارات الإسعاف إلا بعد مفاوضات استمرت ٦ ساعات، تخللتها مظاهرات ومشاحنات استمرت حتى العاشرة من صباح السبت، نظم فى المقابل المئات من المصريين «مسيحيين ومسلمين» مسيرة بمنطقة سيدى بشر أعربوا فيها عن استنكارهم للانفجار، وطالبوا بتعزيز الوحدة الوطنية، رافعين علم مصر.

الأهرام: الأحد ٢٧ من محرم ١٤٣٢هـ ــــــــــ ٢ يناير ٢٠١١ السنة ١٣٥ العدد ٤٥٣١٧

الأزهر يناشد المصريين التمسك بوحدتهم

كتب ــ محمد عبدالخالق:

ناشد الأزهر الشريف المصريين جميعا أن يرتفعوا فوق آلامهم ويدركوا أن اليد المجرمة التي امتدت بالعدوان علي الكنيسة بالاسكندرية ليست يدا مصرية. وأن الإخاء الذي جمعهم علي مدي القرون لا يمكن أن يؤثر فيه عمل مجرم جبان ارتكبه أعداء الوطن والأمة. وأعرب فضيلة الإمام الأكبر الدكتور أحمد الطيب شيخ الأزهر عن بالغ أسفه وألمه للحادث الإجرامي, ووجه تعازيه لأسر الضحايا داعيا الله أن يمن علي الجرحي بالشفاء العاجل. وأكد ــ في بيان له أمس ــ أن هذا العمل الإجرامي محرم شرعا, وأن الإسلام أوجب علي المسلمين حماية الكنائس كما يحمون المساجد. وقال إن المستهدفين من هذا العمل ليسوا المسيحيين وحدهم, بل المصريين جميعا. وأعرب عن اقتناعه التام بأن الذين يقفون وراء هذا العمل الأثيم يريدون ضرب الوحدة والتماسك الاجتماعي والأمن القومي المصري, تنفيذا لمخططات خبيثة تعمل علي زعزعة الاستقرار والأمن, وإثارة الفتنة الطائفية والمذهبية في المنطقة كلها.

الأهرام: الأثنين ٢٨ من محرم ١٤٣٢هـ ٣ يناير ٢٠١١ السنة ١٣٥ العدد ٤٥٣١٨

٢٤ وفاة بأنفلوانزا الخنازير خلال أسبوع

أعلن المتحدث الرسمى باسم وزارة الصحة الدكتور عبد الرحمن شاهين أن عدد حالات الوفيات بفيروس "إتش ١ إن ١" المسبب لمرض أنفلونزا الخنازير خلال الأسبوع الماضى بلغ ٢٤ حالة كانت معظمها من الفئات الأكثر عرضة للاصابة وذات الخطورة العالية للتعرض لمضاعفات المرض حيث بلغت نسبتها نحو ٧٣,٤ % من إجمالى الوفيات ، وقال شاهين فى بيان صادر اليوم عن وزارة الصحة ، أن الوزارة تتوقع أن تستمر هذة الحالات حتى نهاية شهر يناير الحالى ٢٠١١ ثم تبدأ فى الانحسار.

وأكد المتحدث الرسمى أن الوزارة تنصح المواطنين فى حالة الإصابة بأعراض الأنفلوانزا بضرورة طلب المشورة الطبية خاصة للاطفال وكبار السن والسيدات الحوامل ومن لديهم أمراض مزمنه مثل أمراض الصدر والقلب والكلى والكبد والسكر ، وأوضح شاهين أن عقار التاميفلو المخصص للعلاج متوفر بالمجان فى مستشفيات وزارة الصحة كما أنها متاحة أيضا فى الصيدليات الخاصة.

وفاة الشاب الذى أحرق نفسه فى تونس متأثراً بجروحه

توفى الشاب التونسى محمد البوعزيزى مساء أمس الثلاثاء، متأثراً بحروق أصيب بها حين حاول الانتحار احتجاجاً على مصادرة بضاعته، على ما أعلن شقيق الشاب اليوم الأربعاء لوكالة فرانس برس.

وكانت اشتباكات اندلعت فى ١٩ ديسمبر فى مدينة سيدى بوزيد الواقعة على بعد ٢٦٥ كلم عن العاصمة تونس وسط غرب البلاد، بعد إحراق بوعزيزى نفسه احتجاجاً على منعه من إيصال شكواه إلى المسئولين فى المنطقة إثر مصادرة البضاعة التى كانت فى حوزته لعدم امتلاكه التراخيص اللازمة.

وأدت المواجهات بين المتظاهرين والقوى الأمنية إلى سقوط قتيل وجريحين، وأضرار مادية جسيمة، بحسب وزارة الداخلية التونسية.

في بيان رسمى لها..

٢٢ حزباً وحركة سياسية من بينها الوفد والتجمع تطالب بإقالة العادلى

كتب نورا فخرى ونرمين عبد الظاهر ومحمد إسماعيل

أصدر ٢٢ حزباً وحركة سياسية من بينها "الوفد"، و"التجمع" بياناً اليوم، الخميس، أدانت فيه تفجيرات كنيسة "القديسين" التى أسفرت عن مصرع ٢١ مواطنا، وطالبت بإقالة وزير الداخلية حبيبب العادلى، لتقصير الجهات الأمنية فى حماية المواطنين .

وأيد البيان الموقع من أحزاب "الوفد"، و"الغد"، و"الجبهة"، و"التجمع"، و"الكرامة"، و"الجمعية الوطنية للتغيير"، و"الاشتراكيين الثوريين"، و"حملة دعم البرادعى ومطالب التغيير"، و"حركة شباب ٦ إبريل"، و"شباب من أجل العدالة"، و"الحرية" و"حشد" و"تيار التجديد الاشتراكى"، وعدد من المنظمات الحقوقية، انتفاضة الشعب المصرى من المطالبين بالقصاص من الجناة، سواء الذين ارتكبوا الجريمة أو الذين هيئوا المناخ الفاسد الذى يميز بين

أبناء الوطن الواحد، على حد قولهم، مدينين الممارسات الأمنية ضد مواطنين مصريين يمارسون حقهم المشروع فى التجمع والتظاهر والتعبير السلمى الحر عن مطالبهم.

وحمل البيان الحكومة بكافة أجهزتها على المناخ الطائفى الذى يؤدى لتلك الجرائم، وطالبت الشعب المصرى بجميع طوائفه "مسلمين" "مسيحيين" بالتوحد معاً ضد أى محاولات للتفرقة، داعية إياهم لوقفة احتجاجية أمام ضريح سعد زغلول غدا الجمعة .

الأهرام: الخميس ٢ من صفر ١٤٣٢هـ ٦ يناير ٢٠١١ السنة ١٣٥ العدد ٤٥٣٢١

رئيس الوزراء: حادث الإسكندرية عمل إرهابى استهدف أمن مصر

وصف الدكتور أحمد نظيف رئيس الوزراء حادث الإسكندرية بإنه عمل إرهابى إستهدف أمن مصر وإستقرارها وإحداث فتنة بين المسلمين والمسيحيين ، مؤكدا أن المصريين بوعيهم يدركون هذه الحقيقة. وقال إن المحبة تسود بين جميع المصريين على مدى التاريخ ولايمكن لمثل هذه الحوادث الإرهابية أن تهدد الوحدة الوطنية فى مصر.

وقال الدكتور نظيف فى لقائه اليوم برؤساء مجالس إدارات ورؤساء تحرير الصحف ووكالة أنباء الشرق الأوسط إن الهدف الرئيسى للارهاب هو عدم الإستقرار فى مصر التى تمثل ثقلا كبيرا إقليميا ودوليا فى كل أحداث المنطقة ، مشيرا إلى أن تنظيم القاعدة حين أطلق تهديداته فى أكتوبر الماضى ضد بعض الدول حدد مصر ضمن أهدافه ، وأكد أن أجهزة الأمن والنيابة العامة تواصل جهودها لكشف الحقائق حول هذا العمل الإرهابى .. وقال إنه لايمكن أن يكون مصدر هذا الحادث مصرى حقيقى .. وطالب المصريين بالوقوف صفا واحدا فى

مواجهة مثل هذه الأعمال الإرهابية .. كما دعاهم الرئيس مبارك عقب وقوع الحادث مباشرة.

وأضاف رئيس مجلس الوزراء أن المجلس سيتحرك فى المرحلة القادمة لتأكيد فكرة المساواة وعدم التفرقة وترجمة ذلك عمليا فى إطار تشريعى وتنفيذى ، وطالب المجتمع بدعم هذه التوجهات وتبنى ثقافة قبول الآخر ، مؤكدا أن الثقافة أكبر دليل على الرقى وعكسها أكبر دليل على التخلف.

اليوم السابع: الخميس، ٦ يناير ٢٠١١

عادل إمام يطالب بتشريع قانونى لحماية الوحدة الوطنية

طالب الفنان عادل إمام بوضع قانون للوحدة الوطنية لحماية مصر، لافتاً إلى أنه بكى عندما شاهد أحداث ليلة رأس السنة التى راح ضحيتها ٢٣ مسيحياً بكنيسة "القديسين" بالإسكندرية.

وقال إمام لـــ"اليوم السابع": "ما ذنب هؤلاء الأقباط الأبرياء؟"، مؤكداً أن هذه الأحداث سوف تجعل المسيحيين والمسلمين أقوى من الماضى، وأن الله سوف يأخذ حق هؤلاء الشهداء، وأنه لا يريد أن يتكلم الكلام المعتاد.

وأشار إمام إلى أن الخطاب الذى ألقاه الرئيس مبارك كان حازما وقويا، مهنأ الجميع بالعيد قائلا: "كل سنة وجميع المصريين طيبين."

المصري اليوم: الخميس ٦ يناير ٢٠١١

جهاز الإحصاء: زواج كل ٤٠ ثانية وطلاق كل ٣ دقائق في مصر عام ٢٠٠٩

القاهرة

أ.ش.أ

أعلن اللواء أبوبكر الجندى، رئيس الجهاز المركزى للتعبئة والإحصاء، أن معدلات الزواج فاقت معدلات الطلاق خلال عام ٢٠٠٩ بحوالى ٥ مرات، موضحا أن معدل الزواج على مستوى الجمهورية بلغ ٩,٩ فى الألف مقابل ١,٨ فى الألف حالة طلاق خلال العام نفسه.

وقال الجندى في مؤتمر صحفى عقده الخميس «إن عدد عقود الزواج بلغ ٧٥٩ ألف عقد عام ٢٠٠٩ بمعدل ٢٠٨٠ حالة فى اليوم و٧٨ عقدا فى الساعة و١,٥ فى الدقيقة».

وأضاف «وبلغت حالات الطلاق فى المقابل حوالى ١٤١,٥ ألف حالة طلاق بمعدل ٣٨٧ حالة طلاق فى اليوم و١٦ حالة فى الساعة وحالة طلاق كل ٣ دقائق».

ولفت إلى أن معدل الزواج فى مصر يفوق كثيرا من الدول الذى يصل المعدل فيها ما بين ٥ و٦ فى الألف.

أوضح اللواء الجندي أن أعلى نسبة طلاق جاءت بسبب الخلع حيث بلغ عدد الأحكام النهائية ١٨٦٣ حكما تمثل ٦٦,٢% من إجمالى ٢٨١٥ من جملة الأحكام.

وأضاف الجندى «أن نسبة عقود الزواج فى المدن بلغت ٣٧,٢% من جملة العقود و٦٢,٨ فى الألف، حيث بلغ عدد عقود الزواج فى المدن ٢٨٢,٦ عقد وفى الريف ٤٩٦,٤ عقد.

وأوضح أن أعلى نسبة زواج بين الذكور والإناث جاءت فى الفئة العمرية من ٢٥ إلى أقل من ٣٠ سنة بنسبة ٤٠,٨ % من الذكور و٤٨,٩ للإناث، كما أن أقل نسبة زواج جاءت فى الفئة العمرية من ٦٥ سنة فأكثر بنسبة ٨% عقد للزوج و١% للإناث من إجمالى عقود الزواج خلال ٢٠٠٩.

وأشار الجندى إلى أن أعلى نسبة زواج جاءت للحاصلين على مؤهل متوسط للذكور والإناث بنسبة ٣٩,٣ للذكور و٣٨,٧ للإناث حيث بلغ عدد عقود الزواج للحاصلين على مؤهل متوسط نحو ٢٩٨ ألف عقد والزوجات ٢٩٣ ألف عقد، بينما سجلت أقل نسبة زواج للحاصلين والحاصلات على مؤهلات عليا بنسبة ٥.%من جملة العقود و٤.% للإناث.

وأكد أن أعلى نسبة طلاق جاءت فى الفئة العمرية من ٢٥ إلى أقل من ٣٠ سنة وأن نسبة شهادات الطلاق فى المدن بلغت ٧٥ ألفا و١٣٤ شهادة بنسبة تمثل ٥٣,١ من جملة شهادات الطلاق عام ٢٠٠٩ وعدد شهادات الطلاق فى الريف تبلغ ٦٦ ألفا و٣٣٣ شهادة تمثل ٩,٤٩.%

وقال الجندى «إن أعلى معدل للطلاق جاء فى محافظة ٦ أكتوبر وأقل معدل جاء فى محافظة أسيوط»، موضحا أن أقل نسبة طلاق جاءزفى الفئة العمرية ٦٥ سنة فأكثر بنسبة٤.% للإناث و٥.% للذكور.

وذكر أن أعلى نسبة طلاق بين فئة من يقرأ ويكتب سجلت نسبة ٣,٣٣ % للذكور و٣٠ % للإناث، مضيفا أن أقل نسبة طلاق جاءت للحاصلين على درجة جامعية عليا بنسبة ٣,٠ % من جملة شهادات الطلاق للذكور ٢,٠% للإناث

الجمهورية : الأحد ٨ يناير ٢٠١١

سرور يرد علي رئيس البرلمان الأوروبي :
الوقيعة بين عنصري الأمة .. وضرب الأمن القومي ..
هدف جريمة الإسكندرية

أكد الدكتور احمد فتحي سرور رئيس مجلس الشعب أن الحادث الإرهابي الذي وقع أمام كنيسة القديسين بالإسكندرية عمل إرهابي استهدف مصر كلها واختار أن يضرب الكنيسة لاحداث الوقيعة بين عنصري الأمة وبهدف اكبر وهو ضرب جوهر الأمن القومي المصري.. وقال ان هذه الحقيقة تأكدت من ردود الفعل الغاضبة التي لم تقتصر علي المسيحيين بل شاركهم فيها بمشاعر تلقائية المسلمون مما ابرز شعورا وطنيا عارما بأن الجريمة وجهت ضد المصريين جميعا وان المصاب هو مصاب المصريين جميعا.. أضاف الدكتور سرور في بيان له أمس ردا علي البيان الصادر عن السيد جيرزي بوزيك رئيس البرلمان الأوروبي "ان الحادث المأساوي احدث صدمة عميقة لكل المصريين واصابهم بحزن عميق وهم يحتفلون بقدوم عام جديد يتطلعون الي أن يكون عام خير وازدهار. وانه يهمنا ان نصحح صورة غير دقيقة لمسناها في بيانكم حيث تكررت إشاراته الي الحادث باعتباره موجها ضد الاقباط.

المصري اليوم: الاحد ٩ يناير ٢٠١١

الأمن يتلقى بلاغات عن المشتبه به: المتهم أقام فى شقة بـــ«الدخيلة» وشوهد فى مقهى وصالون حلاقة

كتب يسرى البدرى وأحمد شلبى، والإسكندرية - نبيل أبوشال وناصر الشرقاوى، والمحافظات

كشفت مصادر أمنية أن أجهزة الأمن نفذت عملية تمشيط لمنطقة الدخيلة، غرب الإسكندرية، بعد تلقيها معلومات تفيد بأن صاحب الرأس المجهول المشتبه به فى تنفيذ التفجير الإرهابى أمام كنيسة القديسين، كان يستأجر شقة فى هذه المنطقة. وأوضحت المصادر نفسها أنه يجرى أيضاً سؤال عدد من أصحاب المقاهى والحلاقين، بعد ورود معلومات أخرى عن جلوس المشتبه به بأحد المقاهى، وحلاقة ذقنه.

ويفحص قطاع الأمن العام حالياً جميع بلاغات الغياب فى المحافظات، بعد وصول نحو ١٠ اتصالات هاتفية عن شخصية صاحب الرأس المجهول، وأهمها بلاغ تقدم به شخص يدعى أن شقيقه ربما يكون من ضحايا الحادث، لكنه لم يسأل عنه مرة

أخرى، ولم يتقدم للبحث عنه وسط الضحايا أو المصابين. وذكرت المصادر أن قطاع المعلومات والتوثيق بوزارة الداخلية حصل على معلومات أخرى من شبكة «فيس بوك» ومواقع تنظيم القاعدة.

كان فريق من الأطباء الشرعيين قد أجرى معاينة، أمس، لموقع الحادث وسطح كنيسة القديسين، واستمعت نيابة شرق الكلية إلي أقوال الأنبا مقار فوزى، راعى الكنيسة، و«الشيخ أحمد»، بائع المصاحف الذى يقيم أمام المسجد المقابل. وأصدر النائب العام بياناً قال فيه إنه لم تصدر عنه أو عن مكتبه الفنى، بيانات أو تصريحات لأى صحيفة حكومية بشأن الحادث، وناشد جميع وسائل الإعلام الالتزام بالقانون وتوخى الدقة فيما ينشر عن التحقيقات. فى سياق متصل، تواصلت مظاهر التضامن مع ضحايا الحادث، فى عدد من المحافظات أبرزها بورسعيد والإسماعيلية والمنصورة والإسكندرية

روزاليوسف: العدد ١٦٩٥ – الأربعاء – ١٢ يناير ٢٠١١

الأزهر يهاجم الفاتيكان.. والخارجية تستدعي سفيرتنا من هناك

كتب – أحمد الطاهري – صبحي مجاهد – مايكل عادل- هند عزام – بشير عبدالرؤوف – عمز علم الدين

في موقف رسمي وديني وشعبي مصري ضد تطاولات بابا الفاتيكان، استدعت الخارجية سفيرتنا لدي الفاتيكان للتشاور علي خلفية تصريحات جديدة صادرة عن الفاتيكان تمس الشأن المصري وتعتبرها مصر تدخلا غير مقبول في شئونها الداخلية وذلك علي الرغم من حرص القاهرة علي التواصل مع الفاتيكان بعد التصريحات التي صدرت عنه في أعقاب الحادث الإرهابي في الإسكندرية مطلع الشهر الحالي .

وذكر المتحدث أن الوزير أبوالغيط كان قد فند في رسالة لنظيره في دولة الفاتيكان عدة أمور تضمنتها التصريحات الصادرة عن الفاتيكان ومست وضع الأقباط في مصر والعلاقة بين المسلمين والأقباط، كما رفض فيها أية مساع تتم استنادا إلي جريمة الإسكندرية بهدف الترويج لما يسمي حماية المسيحيين في الشرق الأوسط .

وأعلن شيخ الأزهر د.أحمد الطيب رفضه لتصريحات البابا بنديكت السادس عشر، وقال في بيان له أمس تعقيبا علي بابا الفاتيكان: إننا نقدر دعوة حكومات ودول الشرق الأوسط لحماية الأقليات المسيحية ونؤكد أن حماية المسيحيين شأن داخلي تتكفل به دولهم باعتبارهم مواطنين لهم جميع الحقوق شأنهم شأن سائر المواطنين .

وأكد شيخ الأزهر ضرورة تطبيق قرار الأمم المتحدة بمنع ازدراء الأديان وأن احترام عقائد ومقدسات الشعوب وأنه من حق كل دولة أن تسن ما تراه مناسبا من قوانين لسلامها الاجتماعي .

فيما أكد أنس الفقي وزير الإعلام خلال اجتماع مجلس أمناء اتحاد الإذاعة والتليفزيون أمس أهمية دور الإعلام في مواجهة تحديات وتداعيات الحادث الإجرامي .

وأشار إلي أهمية الأفكار الإعلامية الجديدة لترجمتها إلي فعل يضمن ترسيخ مفهوم الدولة المدنية التي هي أساس المواطنة في وجدان المواطنين علي أساس المساواة في الحقوق والواجبات. وطالب بتفعيل لجنة المواطنة وحقوق الإنسان باتحاد الإذاعة والتليفزيون، ومتابعة ما يبث من برامج ومناقشة جميع القضايا بشكل مفصل، كما طالب أعضاء المجلس بضرورة مواجهة المواد المثيرة للفتن علي القنوات الفضائية الخاصة واتخاذ الإجراءات اللازمة تجاهها .

من ناحية أخري بدأ المجلس الأعلي للثقافة اجتماعه أمس بدقيقة حدادا علي أرواح الشهداء والذي وصفه فاروق حسني وزير الثقافة بأنه عمل «خسيس وجبان وقذر» واقترح الوزير تشكيل لجنة الثقافة الدينية تعني بكل ما هو متصل بالحياة الدينية والفكر والثقافة علي الجانبين الإسلامي والمسيحي علي أن تشمل الحكماء من الطرفين ليضعوا كلمة مهمة بشكل قوي ذات مصداقية في أوقات الأزمات، لحل المشاكل التي نعاني منها، وتابع: لا نتحدث عن الدين إنما الثقافة الدينية السائدة في المجتمع .

وأكد د.مراد وهبة أن المطلوب هو تغيير النسق الثقافي وإنقاذ المجتمع من الغرق الديني وقال د.علي الدين هلال أمين الإعلام بالحزب الوطني نحن في لحظة ذهبية بأن قوي الاستنارة الآن هي ذات الصوت العالي ولن يستمر ذلك طويلا سوي بضعة أسابيع مشيرا إلي أن المعركة الآن تمثل توجيه العقل المصري .

وانتقدت د.ليلي تكلا اكتشاف أن قرية تسمي «شربين» ٩٥% من المدرسات منتقبات وقالت كفانا كلام .

وانتقد محمود عزب مدير مركز الحوار خلال المؤتمر الصحفي الذي عقده د. هينرش كرفت مسئول الحوار في وزارة الخارجية الألمانية أمس موقف البابا ودعوته لحماية المسيحيين، من القتل وقال: «يقتَل العراقيون كل يوم، ولا نسمع إلا

لوما علي قتل المسيحيين فقط»، ولم نسمع كلمة إدانة من الفاتيكان للأحداث الطائفية للمسيحيين الأرثوذكس والمسلمين في العراق أو فلسطين، وأضاف أن أوروبا بأكملها لاتقترب من الصهيونية واليهودية المتطرفة .

وقال الانبا بسنتي أسقف حلوان والمعصرة لـ«روزاليوسف» أن من يحمي المسيحيين في مصر هم اخوانهم المسلمون وليس غيرهم قائلا: إن البابا شنودة قال إننا لا يحمينا في مصر أجنبي وانما يحميني أخي، وعبر بسنتي عن سعادته قائلا الآن نري من يريد تمرير دور العبادة الموحد هم المسلمون وعلي رأسهم د.رفعت السعيد وأحمد فؤاد نجم، وقال بسنتي خلال الندوة: إن القرآن يدعو للتعايش والتسامح والتقارب بين المسلمين فالله قال في القرآن «أفأنت تكره الناس حتي يكونوا مسلمين» «ولو شاء ربك لهدي الناس جميعا» وقال: «ولتجدن أقربهم مودة للذين آمنوا الذين قالوا إنا نصاري» وقد رفض الخليفة عمر ابن الخطاب أن يبني مسجداً علي أرض امرأة قبطية وأمر بهدم المسجد .

وأضاف الأنبا بسنتي إن الكنيسة المصرية ترفض تماماً أية حماية خارجية لأننا لسنا في حاجة إليها مؤكداً أن الأقباط في مصر ليسوا مضطهدين كما يشاع البعض في الغرب وانما هناك مشاكل طبيعية ستحل بيننا .

روزاليوسف: العدد ١٦٩٥ - الأربعاء - ١٢ يناير ٢٠١١

في رسالة تعزية من أوباما لمبارك:حادث الاسكندرية «إجرامي» استهدف شعب مصر.. ومتضامنون في مواجهة الإرهاب

علاء الدين ظاهر - إبراهيم جاد كتب

تلقي الرئيس محمد حسني مبارك رسالة من الرئيس الأمريكي باراك أوباما للعزاء والمواساة في ضحايا العمل الإرهابي بالإسكندرية باعتباره عملا إجراميا استهدف شعب مصر بأكمله، كما أكد أوباما في رسالته تضامن الولايات المتحدة مع مصر في مواجهة إرهاب أعمي يستهدف الأبرياء من مختلف الأديان والأعراق حول العالم، ويتعين قطع الطريق علي محاولته ترويع الآمنين وبث الفتنة بين الشعوب .

من ناحية أخري قالت السفيرة الأمريكية مارجريت سكوبي ردًا علي سؤال لـــ «روزاليوسف» حول ما إذا كانت هناك جهود مشتركة مصرية أمريكية لمكافحة الإرهاب علي خلفية تعرض مصر وأمريكا خلال الأيام الماضية لحادثين إرهابيين: قدمنا التعازي للشعب المصري والحكومة المصرية في ضحايا حادث مصر الأخير، وإن أمريكا تدين الإرهاب مشيرة إلي أنهم أول أمس قد وقفوا دقيقة حدادًا علي

ضحايا الحادث الأخير الذي وقع في أمريكا مؤكدة أن الحادثين جاء بدوافع إرهابية ترفضه رغم اختلاف الواقعة عن الأخري وأن الشعب الأمريكي مصدوم من الحادث .

وأكدت سكوبي خلال المومر الصحفي الذي عقد لتدشين مبادرة البرنامج العالمي لريادة الأعمال أمس.. أننا قدمنا التعازي لرئيس مجلس الوزراء وأن أمريكا مستعدة لتقديم أي دعم لمكافحة الإرهاب .

الطريف خلال اجتماع الدكتور نظيف مع مارجريت سكوبي حينما روت السفيرة الأمريكية عن أن الصحافة الأمريكية مصدومة بالحادث، فيما كان رد الدكتور نظيف بأن الصحافة «عندنا» لها طابع هجومي في إشارة لحادثة الإسكندرية الأخيرة.

الوفد: الأربعاء ١٢ يناير ٢٠١١

الجارديان: الحكومات العربية "فاشلة"

كتبت - إنجي الخولي:

اعتبرت صحيفة "الجارديان" البريطانية الثلاثاء، أن الاحتجاجات العربية المندلعة في تونس والجزائر تؤكد فشل الحكومات العربية.

وقالت الصحيفة: إن رد الفعل الرسمي للحكومات العربية على الاحتجاجات الشعبية جاء متفقًا مع ما وصفته "بقواعد لعبة الطاغية" التي تنص على أمر الشرطة بفتح النار على المتظاهرين العزل ونشر الجيش في الشوارع ومن ثم إلقاء اللوم على "الإرهابيين" واتهام مجهولين وأطراف أجنبية بالتحريض.

وأوضحت الصحيفة، أن الرئيس التونسي زين العابدين بن علي مثله كغيره من الحكام العرب لا يستطيع أن يواجه هذه الاحتجاجات إلا بهذه الخطوات المتفق عليها.

وكانت الاضطرابات في تونس قد بدأت الشهر الماضي عندما انتحر الشاب البوعزيزي محمد (٢٦ عاما) لبعد أن أحرق نفسه أمام مقر ولاية سيدي بوزيد في السابع عشر من ديسمبر ٢٠١٠، احتجاجا على منعه من بيع الخضراوات والغلال

وصفعه من قِبل أحد موظفي البلدية، إضافة إلى رفض المسئولين المحليين مقابلته حينما أراد الشكوى.

وأشعل هذا الحادث احتجاجات ومظاهرات في مدينة سيدي بوزيد تعاطفا مع البوعزيزي تحولت في اليوم التالي إلى مواجهات عنيفة مع الشرطة سرعان ما امتدت إلى بقية مدن المحافظة سيدي بوزيد ثم إلى محافظات أخرى في البلاد أدت إلى مقتل ١٤ شخصا حسب رواية الحكومة وما لا يقل عن ٥٠ قتلوا على حسب المصادر الشعبية وحقوق الإنسان.

واستبعدت الصحيفة وجود تدخل أجنبي في الاحتجاجات التي تشهدها تونس، مشيرة إلى أن التونسيين سئموا البطالة المزمنة وارتفاع أسعار المواد الغذائية والفساد الرسمي والنظام السياسي السلطوي الديمقراطي الذي أعطى بن علي (٧٤ عاما) ولاية خامسة على التوالي في ٢٠٠٩ مع ٨٩،٦ ٪ من الأصوات.

ولفتت الصحيفة إلى أن هذه المشاكل مألوفة في أنحاء العالم العربي مع استثناءات محدودة في لبنان وفلسطين والعراق التي تواجه مثل هذه المشاكل وغيرها من القضايا الأخرى.

وتطرقت إلى المظاهرات التي شهدتها الجزائر الأسبوع الماضي بسبب ارتفاع أسعار المواد الغذائية، مشيرة إلى ان ٦٠ % من سكان مصر ،التي تعتبر اكبر

الدول العربية، تحت سن ٣٠ عاما وان بطالة الشباب في ارتفاع مستمر في حين يعيش أكثر من ٤٠ ٪ من المواطنين بأقل من ٢ دولار في اليوم.

وتابعت أن الفجوة بين الأغنياء والفقراء بمصر في تزايد في ظل نظام انتخابي فاسد، قائلة: "إن الرئيس حسني مبارك يعتزم على ما يبدو التشبث بالسلطة إلى أجل غير مسمى."

وأضافت الصحيفة، "أن فشل الحكم العربي أصبح قاب قوسين أو أدنى وذلك يمتد من الدول العربية من اليمن والخليج إلى شمال أفريقيا"، موضحة أن معهد "كارنيجي" أكد في دراساته أن معدلات البطالة في ارتفاع مستمر بالعالم العربي مما يهدد بإثارة الاضطرابات الاجتماعية وأن التحديات التي تواجه الفقراء في ازدياد مع بطء النمو الذي يتزامن مع التزايد السكاني.

وأشارت إلى تقرير المعرفة العربي عام ٢٠٠٩ لمؤسسة الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم الذي يقول: "إن القيود المفروضة على الحريات العامة، جنبا إلى جنب مع ارتفاع مستوى الفقر وسوء توزيع الدخل، في بعض البلدان العربية أدى إلى زيادة تهميش الفقراء وحرمهم من الحصول على مزيد من حقوقهم الأساسية في التعليم والسكن وفرص العمل، مما يسهم في مزيد من الانخفاض من الحريات الاجتماعية."

تطـــور الأحداث

اليوم السابع:الخميس، ١٣ يناير ٢٠١١

"بن على": أمرت بوقف إطلاق النار على المتظاهرين لأننى حريص على كل نقطة دم تونسية

تونس (أ. ف. ب)

أكد الرئيس التونسى زين العابدين بن على مساء اليوم، الخميس، أنه أمر بالتوقف فوراً عن إطلاق النار على المتظاهرين، مشدداً على حرصه على "كل نقطة دم تونسية."

وقال بن على فى خطاب وجهه مساء الخميس للشعب التونسى عبر التليفزيون بعد أكثر من ثلاثة أسابيع من الاحتجاجات المتواصلة فى البلاد، "لا أقبل أن تسيل قطرة دم واحدة فى تونس."

وأضاف، "كفى عنفا، لقد أعطيت تعليمات لوزير الداخلية، كفى لجوءاً للرصاص الحى إلا فى حالة هجوم، والإجبار على الدفاع عن النفس من جانب قوات الأمن."

وأكد من جهة أخرى أنه أعطى تعليمات للحكومة بـــ"تخفيض أسعار المواد الأساسية مثل السكر والحليب والخبز."

اليوم السابع: الجمعة، ١٤ يناير ٢٠١١

الغنوشى يعلن توليه منصب رئاسة تونس مؤقتاً

كتب مصطفى عنبر

أعلن التليفزيون التونسى تولى محمد الغنوشى، رئيس وزراء الحكومة التونسية، منصب الرئاسة، على أن يتسلم المنصب بصورة وقتية.

وقال الغنوشى خلال الخطاب الذى ألقاه عبر التليفزيون التونسى بأن هذا القرار جاء بعد تعذر الرئيس التونسى زين العابدين بن على فى الوصول لحلول من شأنها حل مشاكل الشعب التونسى، وفض المظاهرات التى انتابت الدولة منذ فترة قليلة.

اليوم السابع: السبت، ١٥ يناير ٢٠١١

"المبذع" رئيساً مؤقتاً لتونس وعزل "الغنوشى"

كتب محمد ثروت ومصطفى عنبر

أعلن رئيس المجلس الدستورى فى تونس عن فراغ منصب رئيس الجمهورية التونسية نهائياً حسب ما ورد بالفصل ٥٧ من الدستور التونسى بأنه تؤول رئاسة الجمهورية المؤقتة إلى رئيس مجلس النواب .

جاء ذلك فى بيان عاجل نقلة التليفزيون التونسى، وبذلك يتولى السيد فؤاد المبذع، رئيس مجلس النواب رئيساً مؤقتاً لتونس، وهو ما يعنى دخول تونس فى أزمة جديدة لحين اجتماع المعارضة مع الحكومة التونسية.

الرئيس على زين العابدين يغادر تونس

تونس ــ وكالات

أكدت مصادر تونسية، مغادرة الرئيس التونسى زين العابدين بن على البلاد ، وتوجهه إلى مالطة، بعد حصوله على ضمانات أمريكية وفرنسية بعدم المساس به أو بأسرته. وتولى الجيش "التونسى مقاليد الحكم. كانت أحزاب المعارضة فى تونس المعترف بها والمحظورة، طالبت اليوم الجمعة بـــ"تنحى الرئيس التونسى زين العابدين بن على، وتشكيل حكومة مؤقتة تكلف خلال ستة أشهر إجراء انتخابات حرة"، وذلك فى بيان مشترك صدر فى باريس.

وقالت الجمعيات والأحزاب السياسية التونسية فى فرنسا فى بيان تلى خلال مؤتمر صحفى فى باريس "نطلب تنحى (زين العابدين) بن على وتشكيل حكومة مؤقتة تكلف خلال ستة أشهر إجراء انتخابات حرة."

ومن بين الجمعيات والأحزاب التى وقعت البيان حزب المؤتمر من أجل الجمهورية برئاسة منصف مرزوقى، والحزب الشيوعى العمالى التونسى، والحركة الإسلامية المعتدلة "النهضة"، ولجنة احترام الحريات وحقوق الإنسان فى تونس، إضافة إلى الحزب الديمقراطى التقدمى المعارض.

اليوم السابع:الجمعة، ١٤ يناير ٢٠١١

آلاف التونسيين يخرجون فى مظاهرة ضد الرئيس بن على

تونس (أ. ف. ب)

طالب آلاف التونسيين اليوم الجمعة برحيل زين العابدين بن على فى العاصمة والولايات التونسية (محافظات) غداة كلمة تهدئة لرئيس الدولة لإنهاء حركة احتجاجية لا سابق لها.

وفى العاصمة التونسية تتواصل منذ الصباح التظاهرات والتجمعات فى شارع الحبيب بورقيبة الرئيسى دون تدخل الشرطة، وبعد أن بدأت بعشرات المتظاهرين ما لبثت التظاهرات أن جمعت المئات، ثم آلاف المتظاهرين المحتجين وهى لا تزال متواصلة.

ويهتف المتظاهرون "انتفاضة مستمرة وبن على برة" و"بالروح بالدم نفديك يا شهيد" و"الشعب يريد استقالة بن على" و"لا لا للطرابلسية (عائلة زوجة الرئيس ليلى الطرابلسى) الذين نهبوا الميزانية"، مرددين النشيد الوطنى التونسى رافعين يافطات كتب على بعضها "بن على ارحل."

الصباح التونسية: بن على يقيل مستشاره الإعلامى

تونس (ا ف ب)

أعفى عبد الوهاب عبد الله الوزير المستشار لدى رئيس الجمهورية التونسية من مهامه، على ما أفادت صحيفة "الصباح" الخاصة اليوم الجمعة. وذكرت الصحيفة التى تعد أعرق الصحف اليومية فى تونس "تم إعفاء السيد عبد الوهاب عبد الله من مهامه كوزير مستشار لدى رئيس الجمهورية"، مضيفة "يذكر أن السيد عبد الوهاب شغل العديد من المناصب العليا فى المجال الإعلامى قبل التحول (١٩٨٧) وبعده، ويعتبره الكثيرون مهندس السياسات الإعلامية فى تونس طيلة الفترة الماضية."

وكان الرئيس التونسى أعلن مساء أمس، الخميس، فى كلمة للشعب التونسى بعد نحو شهر من الاحتجاجات الدامية ضد البطالة والفساد، أنه تعرض "للمغالطة" وأنه ستكون هناك "محاسبة"، مشيراً بالخصوص إلى أن الأمور "لم تسر كما كنت أريدها، خصوصاً فى مجالى الإعلام والديمقراطية."

<u>اليوم السابع: السبت، ١٥ يناير ٢٠١١</u>

بن على يصل لجدة والسعودية ترحب به وبأسرته

جدة (السعودية) (ا ف ب)

أعلن مصدر سعودى اليوم، السبت، أن الطائرة التى تقل الرئيس التونسى زين العابدين بن على، الذى فر من بلاده إثر انتفاضة شعبية، حطت فى مطار جدة غربى المملكة العربية السعودية.

وقال المصدر لوكالة فرانس برس، طالبا عدم الكشف عن هوايته، أن الطائرة التى تقل الرئيس بن على حطت فى جدة"، بعدما غادر الرئيس زين العابدين بن على تونس إثر أسابيع من الاحتجاجات الدامية، فيما أعلن رئيس الوزراء محمد الغنوشى تولى السلطة مؤقتا.

ومن ناحية أخرى أصدر الديوان الملكى السعودى، بيانا رحب فيه بالرئيس التونسى زين العابدين بن على وأسرته.

اليوم السابع الثلاثاء ، ١٨ يناير ٢٠١١

الفايننشيال تايمز: بوادر الاضطرابات تعم شمال أفريقيا



كتبت إنجى مجدى

شهدت دول شمال أفريقيا سلسلة من محاولات الانتحار حرقا، والتى كان أبرزها انتحار ذلك الشاب التونسى محمد بوعزيزى والذى كان يمثل الشرارة الأولى للانتفاضة الشعبية بتونس.

وقالت صحيفة "الفايننشيال" تايمز إن هذه الموجة من الانتحارات تزيد التساؤلات بشأن ما إذا كانت حالة الاضطرابات المدنية ستتوغل فى المنطقة.

وأضافت الصحيفة أن الثورة الشعبية فى تونس تثير تساؤلات حول مصير

الأنظمة المماثلة لنظام بن على فى البلدان الأخرى بالمنطقة، التى تعانى مزيجا من الاستبداد السياسى والمشاكل الاقتصادية.

ونقلت عن محللين أن موجة الحرائق التى اجتاحت دول شمال أفريقيا أظهرت مدى الإحباط بين كثير من العرب. لكنهم يقللون من احتمالات انتقال ثورة تونس إلى غيرها من بلدان العالم العربى. ويقول مصطفى حمارنة، ناشر ومعلق أردنى، إن حالات الانتحار هذه تسلط الضوء على العجز الذى يشعر به كثير من العرب فى مواجهة الأنظمة القمعية وفرص الحياة الضئيلة .

وبينما شهد الأردن تظاهرات خلال عطلة نهاية الأسبوع، وردد المحتجون: "ثورة تونس ستنتشر"، أشارت الفاينشيال إلى تنظيم مظاهرات فى مصر الأسبوع المقبل.

وختمت الصحيفة مستبعدة تكرار السيناريو التونسى لدى بعض الدول العربية الأكثر استقرار خاصة دول الخليج بسبب ثرواتهم والنظام الملكى الذى يحتفظ بولاء النخبة، كما أن بلدان مثل سوريا ولبنان والأردن تشهد توترات داخلية بين فصائل المجتمع المختلفة مما يجعل من الصعب عليهم تحقيق إنتقاضة شعبية موحدة.

اليوم السابع: الثلاثاء، ١٨ يناير ٢٠١١

للمرة الثانية خلال ٢٤ ساعة.. مواطن يحاول حرق نفسه أمام البرلمان

كتب محمود سعد الدين

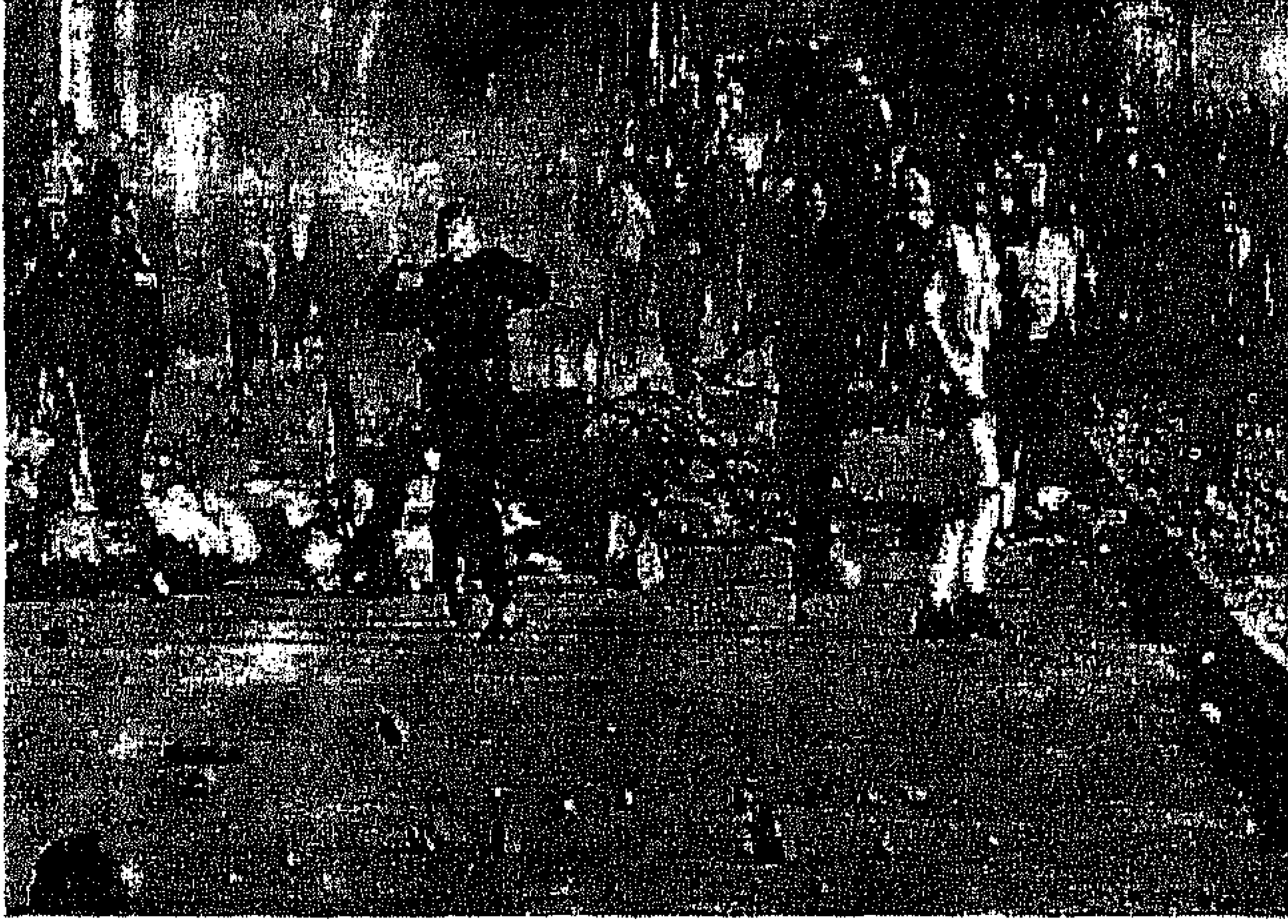
لليوم الثاني على التوالي، حاول مواطن إشعال النار في جسده أمام مقر مجلس الشعب بوسط القاهرة، واستمرت النار مشتعلة لمدة دقيقة قبل أن يتمكن مواطنون من إخمادها، لينتقل "المحترق" على الفور إلى مستشفى المنيرة لإسعافه .

وعلم اليوم السابع أن المواطن الذى حاول إشعال النار فى نفسه يدعى محمد فاروق محمد حسن، ويعمل محامياً ويسكن بحى السيدة زينب وهو فى الخمسين من عمره ويعانى بعد هروب أبنته وعجزه عن استعادتها، الأمر الذى دفعه إلى محاولة الانتحار.

وسنوافيكم بالتفاصيل أولاً بأول..

اليوم السابع الأحد، ٢٣ يناير ٢٠١١

ثورة "البوعزيزى" تنتقل إلى الجزائر بعد ارتفاع الأسعار



كتبت نهى محمود

بحلول العام الجديد لم تجوب الاحتجاجات والتوترات مختلف المدن التونسية فقط، بل انتقلت إلى الجزائر، حيث شهدت أحياء عدة فى عاصمتها احتجاجات اجتماعية واسعة ضد «ارتفاع الأسعار وتردى القدرة الشرائية» للمواطنين. ومنذ اندلاع هذه الاحتجاجات، تدخلت قوات الأمن لتطويق مواقعها التى امتدت أيضاً إلى خارج العاصمة، مما أدى لصدامات عنيفة استُعملت فيها القنابل المسيلة للدموع وذخيرة بيضاء.

وفى الساعات الأولى من صباح أمس، فرقت قوات مكافحة الشغب فى العاصمة الجزائرية متظاهرين من حزب "التجمع من أجل الثقافة والديمقراطية" المعارض حاولوا كسر طوق أمنى ضُرب على مقر الحزب للخروج فى مسيرة كانت وزارة الداخلية الجزائرية أبلغت منظميها بأنها "ممنوعة ."

وأعلن سعيد سعدى، زعيم "التجمع من أجل الثقافة والديمقراطية"، لوكالة "فرانس برس" أن ٤٢ من أنصاره أصيبوا بجروح فى مواجهات مع الشرطة خلال المسيرة التى حاول حزبه تنظيمها.

وشهدت العاصمة الجزائرية يوماً عصيباً منذ الساعات الأولى للصباح، بعدما أحكمت قوات مكافحة الشغب طوقاً أمنياً على عدد من الشوارع الرئيسية، على الرغم من قلة عدد الذين استجابوا لنداء المشاركة فى المسيرة، ففى ساحة أول ماى "الوئام المدنى" حيث دعا "التجمع من أجل الثقافة والديمقراطية" أتباعه للتجمهر قبل التوجه نحو البرلمان الجزائرى، تمركزت قوات مكافحة الشغب بكثافة وكذلك حول محيط مقر الحزب .

وقال مصدر أمنى، إن سعدى، بعد إصراره على المسيرة الممنوعة "يُعتبر فى عداد الخارجين عن القانون.. ونحن نطبّق القانون". فيما اعترف رئيس حزب

التجمع من أجل الثقافة والديمقراطية ضمنيا بفشل المسيرة التى دعا إليها أمس، وأرجع هذا الفشل إلى الطوق الذى فرضته مصالح الأمن على كل المنافذ المؤدية إلى العاصمة لمنع أنصاره من الدخول إليها، نافياً أن تكون أحداث تونس الحافز الذى حركه للإعلان عن تنظيم المسيرة.

وقال سعدى، إن "اختراق الجدار الأمنى وإنجاح المسيرة يتطلب من المتظاهرين استعمال الأجنحة لمغادرة مقر الحزب جوا والذى انتقلت إليه حالة الطوارئ بعدما كانت فى الشارع."

وأعلن رئيس التجمع من أجل الثقافة والديمقراطية، الذى كان يتابع أخبار مناضليه، أنه تم توقيف عدد منهم واقتيادهم إلى مراكز الشرطة، مشيرا إلى إصابة النائب عثمان معزوز، رئيس كتلة الحزب بالغرفة البرلمانية السفلى بجروح على مستوى الوجه، على حد قول المتحدث.

وقد تجمّع قرابة ٣٠٠ شخص منذ صباح أمس أمام مقر الحزب بشارع ديدوش مراد بقلب العاصمة، غير أن مصالح الأمن الوطنى التى انتشرت عبر الممرات والطرق المؤدية إلى مقر تشكيلة سعيد سعدى طوقت المكان وحالت دون تحرك مناضلى الأرسيدى، تحسبا لأى انزلاق أمنى قد يتسبب فى إعادة سيناريو الاحتجاجات التى عاشت على وقعها الجزائر بحر الأسبوع الأول من الشهر

الحالى، فيما سجلت مناوشات بين عناصر الأمن وأتباع زعيم الأرسيدى بعين المكان بعد رفضهم الدخول إلى المقر مرددين شعارات تندد بسياسات الحكومة"، أسفرت حسب مصادر أمنية عن إصابة ١٠ من عناصر الشرطة و٩ متظاهرين بجروح خفيفة، تم نقلهم على جناح السرعة إلى مستشفى مصطفى باشا.

هذا، وغادر سعيد سعدى مقر الحزب فى حدود الساعة الواحدة والنصف بعد الزوال لحضور "اجتماعات أخرى" وسط تشديد أمنى محكم. وبعد توانى الثورات على خلفية "ثورة الياسمين التونسية"، ترى هل نجحت الشعوب العربية فيما فشل فيه رؤساؤهم وهو "الوحدة"؟!، فربما ستتوحد باقى الدول العربية الأخرى، التى تعانى نفس الظروف الاجتماعية والاقتصادية والسياسية الشبيهة لبلدان الانتفاضة الشعبية، وهو ما جعل بعض الخبراء يتوقعون أن عام ٢٠١١ سيكون بداية النهاية بالنسبة للعديد من الأنظمة العربية، التى ستشهد سقوطا مدويا بفضل ثورات شعبية.

اليوم السابع: الأحد، ٢٣ يناير ٢٠١١

العادلى: تنظيم الجيش الإسلامى الفلسطينى وراء تفجير كنيسة القديسين

أعلن حبيب العادلى وزير الداخلية أن تنظيم الجيش الإسلامى الفلسطينى المرتبط بتنظيم القاعدة يقف وراء حادث كنيسة القديسين بالإسكندرية.

جاء ذلك فى كلمته خلال الاحتفال بعيد الشرطة التاسع والخمسين، ووقع حادث كنيسة القديسين ليلة الاحتفال برأس السنة الميلادية وأسفر عن مصرع ٢٣ شخصا، فضلا عن إصابة العشرات بإصابات مختلفة

مقطع من كلمة اللواء حبيب العادلى وزير الداخلية

إن عناصر تنظيم جيش الإسلام الفلسطينى المرتبط بتنظيم القاعدة، وإن تخفوا وراء عناصر تم تجنيدها، فقد تأكد بالدليل القاطع تورطهم الدنىء فى التخطيط والتنفيذ لهذا العمل الإرهابى الخسيس الذى راح ضحيته شهداء على أرض مصر التى قدمت الآلاف من الشهداء من أبنائها دفاعا عن القضية الفلسطينية.

ولن تنال أى أعمال إرهابية خسيسة من إرادة أمة بعراقة مصر، تأصلت فى وجدان شعبها عبر قرون، مبادئ الوسطية وقيم التسامح وقبول الآخر ونبذ العنف والإرهاب.

تفاقم الأحداث

تفاقم الأحداث

المصري اليوم: ٢٦ / ١ / ٢٠١١

إنــــذار .. الآلاف يتظاهرون ضد الفقر والبطالة والغلاء والفساد.. ويطالبون برحيل الحكومة

وجّه آلاف المواطنين رسالة شديدة اللهجة للحكومة، فى مظاهرات «يوم الغضب»، التى شهدتها القاهرة، ومعظم المحافظات أمس، وطالبوا برحيلها، احتجاجاً على تردى الأوضاع الاقتصادية، المتمثلة فى انتشار الفقر وتزايد معدلات البطالة، وارتفاع الأسعار، مرددين هتافات تطالب بتحقيق العدالة الاجتماعية، والقضاء على الفساد، ورفع الأجور، وإجراء إصلاحات سياسية، وتعديل الدستور، وحل مجلس الشعب.

كانت الدعوة لــ«يوم الغضب» قد بدأت بمبادرة من بعض الحركات الاحتجاجية والقوى السياسية المعارضة بعد ثورة تونس، واختار الداعون إليه يوم «٢٥ يناير» المواكب لاحتفالات عيد الشرطة، للتعبير عن غضبهم من سوء الأوضاع الاقتصادية والسياسية فى مصر، واستجاب للدعوة جماعة الإخوان وحركات «كفاية» و«شباب ٦ أبريل» و«الاشتراكيين الثوريين» وعدد من الأحزاب.

بدأ المتظاهرون احتجاجاتهم قبل ظهر أمس فى عدة مناطق، منها: التحرير وبولاق الدكرور وميت عقبة وأرض اللواء وإمبابة والمطرية وشبرا وميدان مصطفى

محمود بشارع جامعة الدول العربية وكورنيش النيل بالقاهرة. وشهدت محافظات الغربية والشرقية ودمياط والإسماعيلية والدقهلية والبحر الأحمر وأسيوط وبنى سويف وأسوان والقليوبية والفيوم وشمال سيناء والسويس وكفر الشيخ والبحيرة – مظاهرات مماثلة.

وانتشرت منذ الصباح الباكر سيارات الأمن المركزى والسيارات المصفحة وعربات الإطفاء وسيارات الإسعاف فى معظم الميادين والشوارع الرئيسية بأنحاء الجمهورية، وتم إغلاقها بالحواجز الحديدية، وقوات مكافحة الشغب. وانتشر الآلاف من رجال الأمن بالزى المدنى والعسكرى، وأحاطوا بالمتظاهرين فى بداية اليوم، ثم بدأوا فى تفريقهم باستخدام خراطيم المياه، والقنابل المسيلة للدموع، والطوب والحجارة.ووقعت اشتباكات محدودة فى بعض المناطق بالقاهرة والمحافظات، انتهت بإصابة عدد من المتظاهرين، واعتقال آخرين، كما أصيب عدد من رجال الأمن.

ورغم التواجد الأمنى، الذى قدّرته المصادر الأمنية بنحو ٣٠ ألف شرطى فى مناطق وسط القاهرة وحدها، فإن المتظاهرين نجحوا فى اختراق الحواجز الأمنية فى العديد من المناطق، أبرزها أمام دار القضاء العالى والمهندسين وميدان التحرير الذى تحول فى ساعة متأخرة من نهار أمس إلى ساحة تجمع فيها المتظاهرون ورابطوا فى الميدان وسط حصار أمنى كثيف.

اليوم السابع: الجمعة، ٢٨ يناير ٢٠١١

مجلس الوزراء: نظيف لم ينم منذ ٣ أيام.. ورسالة المتظاهرين "وصلت"

كتب مصطفى النجار

قضى الدكتور أحمد نظيف، رئيس مجلس الوزراء، الثلاثة أيام الماضية فى مكتبه بمقر رئاسة الوزراء بالقرية الذكية يتلقى اتصالات هاتفية من الوزراء والمسئولين حول تطورات الأحداث واحتجاجات الآلاف من الشباب فى الشارع.

وقال الدكتور مجدى راضى، المتحدث باسم مجلس الوزراء، فى اتصال هاتفى مع برنامج ٤٨ ساعة بقناة المحور، إن "نظيف" فى حالة قلق مستمر، ويدعو جميع المحتجين فى محافظات الجمهورية لضبط النفس وعدم تخريب المبانى العامة والخاصة، مؤكداً أن الشباب كانوا يريدون أن يعبروا عن رأيهم بطريقة سلمية، وكانت تعليمات مجلس الوزراء بتوفير كل ما يتطلبه أن تخرج هذه الاحتجاجات الشبابية بالشكل الحضارى، فالناس ظهرت يوم ٢٥ يناير بشكل رائع، لأنهم كانوا ينتهجون مبدأ "عايز أعبر عن نفسي"، على حد قوله.

وأضاف أن "نظيف" أجرى لقاءً تليفزيونياً تمنى فيه أن يعقد جلسات مع الشباب للتحاور.

وأوضح راضى أن المظاهرات تحولت من الشكل الحضارى إلى ما لم يحمد عقباه، وتحولت الأحداث من مظهرها السلمى إلى أعمال تخريب فى الأماكن العامة والخاصة، وبدء الاعتداء على رجال الشرطة، وهو ما نتج عنه فقد أحدهم لحياته يوم عيد الشرطة، معبراً عن استيائه مما حدث، مقللا فى الوقت نفسه من الاحتجاجات لأنها ليست أول مرة، قائلا، "كنا عايزين شبابنا يطلع يتكلم كل واحد هو عايز أيه، ولدينا فى الحكومة برنامج بيقول كل واحد هيقول أيه اجتماعياً وسياسياً".

ودافع راضى عن موقف الحكومة فى التعامل مع الاحتجاجات قائلا، "كنا عايزين اليوم يكمل بوقفة احتجاجية وينصرفوا، وأخذنا بيانا بالطلبات الشبابية التى قدمت لكننا وجدناها كثيرة"، وعبر ضاحكاً، "لكنها كتيرة أوي"، لكن التخريب غطى على الاحتجاج السلمى ليهدد الاستقرار والأمن، وقال إن مجلس الوزراء كان يريد حواراً سلمياً.

ورفض اتهام الحكومة بأنها لا تقوم بعملها، مؤكداً أن الحل الحالى للاحتجاجات بات فى يد قوات الأمن والمحتجين أنفسهم.

واتهم المتحدث باسم مجلس الوزراء الناس ومذيعى برامج الـ"توك شو" بأنهم يتركون الموضوع الأساسى حول الاحتجاجات ويتحدثون فى القشور، حيث يركزون على عدم حديث الدكتور أحمد نظيف بنفسه، مؤكداً أن الناس ركبت موجة ليست لهم بل يتم من خلالها تنفيذ أجندات سياسية لجهات معينة.

وحول تفكير "نظيف" فى مطالب الشباب، علق "راضى" بأنها تقع فى عدة مسارات لدى الحكومة فى خطط، ودعا الشباب بأن يدخلوا فى حوار إيجابى لبحث ما الذى يجب أن يضاف لنا من أفكارهم، مؤكداً أنه ليس كل من يريد أن يفعل شيئا يحدث، مؤكداً أن مجلس الوزراء يرغب فى أن يكون الشباب له رأى فى العملية الاقتصادية والسياسية والاجتماعية التى نقوم بها، وقال، إن رسالة الشباب لنا "وصلت" بعد أن قالوا "أنا أهو"، وألقى باللوم على الإعلام لأنه لم يكن يساعد الحكومة بل كان يعرض نماذج سلبية.

وأوضح أن الحكومة كانت ترد على الشائعات التى كانت تتداول خلال الأيام الماضية مثل إقالة الحكومة وتهريب الأموال للخارج، لكنه لم يوضح كيف نفت الحكومة.

المصرى اليوم: الاربعاء ٢ فبراير ٢٠١١

١١ يوماً من الغضب المصرى

١٧ يناير

حاول المواطن «عبده عبدالمنعم جعفر» بمدينة القنطرة حرق نفسه بسبب **خلافات مع المحليات حول «خبز»** لمطعمه، وأكدت الحكومة أن الحادث فردى ولا **يمثل حالة غضب فى مصر.**

١٨ يناير

وفاة أول حالة تحاول الانتحار فى الإسكندرية، حيث قام «أحمد هاشم السيد» بقطع شرايينه بسبب عدم وجود عمل، وقام محام يدعى «محمد **فاروق» بحرق نفسه.**

١٩ يناير

بدء دعوات على الإنترنت والفيس بوك لعمل مظاهرة فى عيد الشرطة **للتنديد بالظلم والفساد لاقت قبولاً إلكترونياً واسعاً وسخرية من الصحف الحكومية.**

٢٥ يناير

بدء تظاهرات معادية للحكومة بمشاركة آلاف الأشخاص، قتل متظاهران في السويس بعد صدامات مع الشرطة وتوفى شرطى فى القاهرة بعد تعرضه للضرب من قبل متظاهرين.

٢٦ يناير

فى القاهرة قتل شخصان فى صدامات، وفى السويس ألقى متظاهرون زجاجات حارقة على مبنى حكومى، جرح ٥٥ متظاهراً و١٥ شرطياً.

٢٧ يناير

أعلنت السلطات عن «إجراءات حاسمة» ضد المتظاهرين.

٢٨ يناير

- قطعت شبكة الإنترنت

- طلب مبارك من الجيش مساعدة الشرطة.

- أعلن الرئيس مبارك إقالة حكومة أحمد نظيف وتعهد بخطوات جديدة

على طريق الإصلاح.

٢٩ يناير

- استقالة الحكومة المصرية.

- استقالة أحمد عز.

- عمر سليمان، نائباً لرئيس الجمهورية.

- تعيين الفريق أحمد شفيق، رئيساً للوزراء.

- قرار إقامة «مسيرة مليونية» فى أول فبراير.

٣٠ يناير

- مبارك يزور مركز عمليات القوات المسلحة لمتابعة الوضع الأمنى.

- طائرات حربية تحلق فى سماء القاهرة.

٣١ يناير

- أحمد شفيق يشكل وزارة جديدة بلا رجال أعمال.

مصراوي: الأربعاء ٢ فبراير ٢٠١١

مبارك يعلن عدم الترشح لفترة رئاسية جديدة

كتب- أيمن شعبان:

أعلن الرئيس محمد حسني مبارك أنه لم يكن ينوي الترشح لفترة رئاسية جديدة، مؤكدا انه مستمر في أداء عمله حتى نهاية ولايته وطبقا للدستور، وأنه سيعمل على تحقيق الانتقال السلمي للسلطة طبقا لما يخوله له الدستور من صلاحيات.

وأضاف مبارك في خطاب وجهه للشعب مساء يوم الثلاثاء أنه سيدعو مجلسي الشعب والشورى لتعديل بعض مواد الدستور ومنهم المادتين ٧٦، و٧٧ والمتعلقتين بشروط الترشح للانتخابات الرئاسية.

وأكد مبارك أن أجهزة الدولة ستحترم أحكام القضاء فيما يتعلق بالطعون الانتخابية، موجها نداءً إلى جهاز الشرطة بالاضطلاع بأداء واجباته في حماية أمن المواطنين بأمانة وشرف.

وشدد مبارك على اعتزازه بالسنين التي قضاها في خدمة مصر، وأنه سيبقى في مصر التي يتمنى أن يموت على أرضها، تاركا للتاريخ الحكم عليه.

يشار إلى أن قرارات الرئيس مبارك التي أعلنها في بيانه مساء الثلاثاء، جاءت استجابة لمطالب المتظاهرين بميدان التحرير وغيره من المحافظات.

مصراوي: الأربعاء ٢ فبراير ٢٠١١

عودة شعار (الشرطة في خدمة الشعب) بقرار من وزير الداخلية الجديد

كتب- أيمن شعبان:

قرر اللواء محمود وجدي وزير الداخلية الجديد، العودة لشعار (الشرطة في خدمة الشعب) بدلا من شعار (الشرطة والشعب في خدمة الوطن).

يشار إلى أن قوات الشرطة بدأت في العودة إلى مقراتها بأقسام الشرطة وفي الشارع وممارسة عملها بعد أن كانت قد اختفت من الأقسام والشوارع خلال الأيام الماضية.

إلى ذلك أعلن الرئيس محمد حسني مبارك أنه لم يكن ينوي الترشح لفترة رئاسية جديدة، مؤكدا انه مستمر في أداء عمله حتى نهاية ولايته وطبقا للدستور، وأنه سيعمل على تحقيق الانتقال السلمي للسلطة طبقا لما يخوله له الدستور من صلاحيات.

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مصراوي: الخميس ٣ فبراير ٢٠١١

شفيق: اعتذر عما حدث بالتحرير.. وفتحنا تحقيق لمعرفة المسئول

كتب – هاني ضوَّه :

اعتذر الفريق أحمد شفيق رئيس الوزراء المصري الجديد عما وقع من أحداث مؤسفة بالأمس بعد اعتداء بلطجية مؤيدين للرئيس مبارك على متظاهرين ينادون بتنحي الرئيس في ميدان التحرير، مشيراً إلى أنه يشعر بمسئولية -غير مباشرة - بحكم موقعه عن وقوع قتلى وجرى.

وأكد شفيق إن تحقيق فوري قد تم فتحه بالفعل لمعرفة المسئول عن هذه الاعتداءات التي وصل عدد ضحاياها إلى ٥ قتلى و ٨٣٦ جريحا، مشيراً إلى أن هناك اجراءات تتخذ حاليا للتفاوض مع بعض قيادات المتظاهرين بميدان التحرير.

وقال: "اقسم بالله وبشرفي إن أسرتي ذهبت للمشاركة في التظاهرة المؤيدة للرئيس مبارك ولتأكيد تضامنهم مع خطاب وقرارات الرئيس الأخيرة".

وكان شهود عيان قد أكدوا وقوع قتلى ومصابين من المتظاهرين المعتصمين في ميدان التحرير، بعد إطلاق رصاص حي من جهة كوبري ٦ أكتوبر يوم أمس.

ومنع البلطجية السماح لأي سيارة من الدخول الى ميدان التحرير إلا إذا قال كلمة السر وهي "الشعب"... كما منعوا عبور سيارات الإسعاف إلى داخل الميدان.

وقد حرص المعتصمين علي رفع حالتهم المعنوية عبر تذكير أنفسهم بقيمة مبادئهم وأهدافهم وما نجحوا في تحقيقه والدماء التي سالت من أجل مصر... في الوقت الذي أعلن فيه الجيش، عبر مكبرات الصوت التي تملأ الميدان، مؤيدي الرئيس مبارك من القيام بأي أعمال شغب.

أما البلطجية فقد اتخذوا من كوبري ٦ أكتوبر ملاذاً لهم واستمروا في رشق المعتصمين بالميدان بالحجارة وقنابل المولوتوف.

كما وقعت اشتباكات من حين إلى آخر بين المتظاهرين المناهضين للرئيس مبارك المعتصمين بالميدان، وبين من يسمونهم بلطجية تابعين لأحد قيادات الحزب الوطني الحاكم.

وأسفرت تلك الاشتباكات التي بدأت منذ ظهر الاربعاء، التي استخدمت فيها الإبل والخيول والأسلحة البيضاء وقنابل المولوتوف، عن وقوع ٥ قتلى و ٨٣٦ جريحا.

الدستور: الجمعة ٤ فبراير ٢٠١١

عشرات آلالاف يقضون ليلتهم في ميدان التحرير.. وتفاؤل كبير بالحسم في "جمعة الرحيل"

قضي عشرات الآلاف من المتظاهرين المطالبين باسقاط الرئيس مبارك ليلتهم الأخيرة قبل ماعرف بـــ"جمعة الرحيل" في ميدان التحرير بوسط القاهرة، مخترقين العديد من المضايقات التي فرضها مجموعة من البلطجية على مداخل ومخارج المتجهين إلى مقر الاعتصام.

وقالت أقل التقديرات أن عدد الذين يقضون ليلتهم في ميدان التحرير هم ١٠٠ ألف، بينما تحدث آخرون عن أعداد أكبر من ذلك لاسيما مع قدوم وافدين من كل محافظات مصر للحشد من أجل حسم ثورتهم التي بدأت منذ ٢٥ يناير في يوم الجمعة.

وعاشت مجموعات من المعتصمين ليلة غلب عليها التفاؤل وسط خليط من الدعوات والصلوات والغناء والضحكات، وذلك رغم مرور ٢٤ ساعة فقط على المواجهة الدموية مع مجموعة من البلطجية قال أنهم مؤيدين لمبارك وهاجموا المعتصمين العزل في ميدان التحرير بالرصاص وقنابل المولوتوف مما اسقط منهم ١٠ شهداء وأكثر من ٢٠٠٠ جريح.

وعلى عكس التوقعات تسبب الحوار الذي أدلى به الرئيس مبارك لشبكة ABC الأمريكية وأشار فيه إلى استمرار بقاءه في الحكم بسبب خوفه من الفوضى من بعده، فإن المعتصمين في ميدان التحرير تضاعف حماسهم لمواجهات يوم الجمعة المتوقعة مع النظام مؤكدين بأنهم سيستطيعون حماية مصر من أي فوضي وعلى مبارك أن يرحل وألا يشغل باله مما سيحدث للبلد من بعده.

المصري اليوم: السبت ٥ فبراير ٢٠١١

رسالة «مليونية» جديدة: الرحيل أولاً

شهدت «جمعة الرحيل»، أمس، احتشاد أكثر من مليون متظاهر فى ميدان التحرير بالقاهرة والمحافظات، اتفقوا جميعهم على مطلب واحد، هو «رحيل الرئيس مبارك»، وفشلت محاولات البلطجية فى منع المحتجين من الوصول إلى الميدان، ووقعت احتكاكات محدودة فى بعض المناطق. ومع الساعات الأولى من صباح أمس تدفق المواطنون على الميدان وهم يحملون الرايات ويرددون هتافات عبر مكبرات الصوت عن سقوط الرئيس، ورددوا أناشيد وطنية قديمة منها «مصر اليوم فى عيد».

وزار المشير محمد حسين طنطاوى، وزير الدفاع، ميدان التحرير لتفقد الأوضاع وهتف المتظاهرون مرحبين به: «يا مشير يا مشير.. إحنا ولادك فى التحرير»، بعدها تبادل المشير حديثاً قصيراً معهم وسعى إلى تهدئتهم، وقال: «يا جماعة الرجل قال لكم إنه لن يرشح نفسه مرة ثانية» فى إشارة للرئيس مبارك، ودعاهم إلى مطالبة الدكتور محمد بديع، المرشد العام لجماعة الإخوان المسلمين، بقبول الحوار مع السلطة، قائلاً: «قولوا للمرشد يقعد معاهم». واستمرت المظاهرات التى تحولت إلى كرنفال يضم جميع أطياف وفئات الشعب المصرى، وحملوا لافتات أغلبها يتعلق

بالاستمرار فى الاعتصام حتى الرحيل، ونددوا بالتعذيب والاعتقالات، وتحدث فيهم بعض السياسيين، وطالبوا بمحاكمة من سموهم «الفرقة الإعلامية»، وعلى رأسهم أنس الفقى، وزير الإعلام.

وأدى المتظاهرون صلاة الجمعة فى مجموعات بالميدان، وطالبهم الشيخ خالد المراكبى فى خطبة الجمعة بالثبات حتى النصر، وأدوا أيضاً صلاة الغائب على أرواح شهداء الانتفاضة، وبعد الصلاة واصلوا ترديد الهتافات، ومنها «هو يمشى.. مش هنمشى»، وفوجئوا بوجود عمرو موسى، الأمين العام لجامعة الدول العربية، بينهم فى الميدان، حيث ألقى كلمة أكد فيها حقهم فى التظاهر مع ضرورة التهدئة والحوار. وأعلن الكثيرون منهم تأييده لترشح موسى للرئاسة. وشهدت محافظات الإسكندرية والسويس وبورسعيد والدقهلية والبحيرة والمنيا وأسيوط والأقصر وأسوان وغيرها من المحافظات مظاهرات شارك فيها مئات الآلاف مطالبين برحيل الرئيس مبارك.

فى سياق متصل، أعلن الدكتور أحمد سامح فريد، وزير الصحة، أن عدد المصابين فى المظاهرات منذ يوم الجمعة الماضى بلغ نحو ٥ آلاف مواطن. وقال إن الوزارة ستعلن اليوم العدد الدقيق والتفاصيل الضرورية فى هذا الشأن.

من جانبه، أكد عمر سليمان، نائب رئيس الجمهورية، أن جزءاً صغيراً من الشعب المصرى يرغب فى رحيل الرئيس، و«هذا أمر ضد ثقافتنا.. نحن نحترم رئيسنا ونحترم آباءنا، ونحترم الشخص الذى يعمل لصالح بلده كما عمل مبارك»، مؤكداً أن ما قدمه الرئيس مبارك يوم الثلاثاء الماضى هو الشيء الوحيد الذى يمكن أن نقدمه لأن الوقت محدود، فنحن لدينا ٢١٠ أيام فقط حتى الانتخابات الرئاسية ولا يمكن أن نفعل أكثر من ذلك. وقال: «الرئيس مبارك لا يسعى لإعادة الترشح مرة أخرى للانتخابات، وإنه عاش على أرض مصر، ولن يغادرها».

الدستور: الخميس ١٠ فبراير ٢٠١١

د.أحمد زويل: على الرئيس مبارك أن يتنحى فورا..ليس هناك حل وسط

تسلم العالم الكبير د.أحمد زويل قلادة النيل عام ١٩٩٩ من الرئيس حسني مبارك. والان يقول انه حان الوقت كي يستجيب الرئيس المصري للمتظاهرين المطالبين برحيله.

وقال زويل في مقابلة مع رويترز يوم الاربعاء "عليه أن يتنحى غدا ويسمح بتشكيل حكومة انتقالية."

ويتمتع زويل (٦٤ عاما) الحائز على جائزة نوبل في الفيزياء عام ١٩٩٩ وعلى قلادة النيل العظمى التي منحها له مبارك في نفس العام بسمعة طيبة في بلده الام.

وقال زويل انه رغم كل تواصله مع أعضاء النخبة الحاكمة في مصر فان جهوده من أجل تطوير العلم والتكنولوجيا والتعليم في مصر خلال السنوات الخمسة عشرة الماضية باءت بالفشل بسبب العبء الثقيل من الفساد والبيراقراطية. ومنذ عودته الى مصر قبل نحو أسبوع التقى زويل مع عمر سليمان نائب الرئيس المصري وعمرو موسي الامين العام لجامعة الدول العربية وأحمد الطيب شيخ الازهر وقيادات الاحتجاجات الشبابية التي تحتل ميدان التحرير.

ويبحث كيف يمكنه أن يلعب دور "الحكيم" بين النظام الحاكم والثورة لكن يبدو أن الفجوة واسعة للغاية.

وقال "كنت أظن في البداية أنه يمكن أن يكون هناك حل وسط لكني لم أعد متأكدا من ذلك."في وضع كهذا لا يمكنك التفاوض. لا يمكنك ابطاء وتيرة تطور الامور."وشبه زويل مصر "بالجسد المعتل" الذي يحتاج لجراحة وليس لمسكن.

وأضاف زويل الذي يعمل مبعوثا علميا للرئيس الامريكي باراك أوباما الى الشرق الاوسط "أعلم بدقة ما يريده الشباب. يريدون أن يروا مصر جديدة."
وعن الانتفاضة الشعبية التي تسعى لاسقاط نظام الرئيس مبارك بعد ٣٠ عاما في السلطة والاضطرابات التي هزت مصر والعالم العربي قال زويل انها "نقطة تحول... هذا تحول نموذجي."

وقال زويل انه ليست له مصلحة في اهانة مبارك أو الهجوم عليه بشكل شخصي. وأضاف "انه هجوم على النظام بأكمله .. النظام الذي كان فاسدا ولم يعمل بشكل مناسب. مصر تستحق نظاما جديدا نشطا .. نافذة جديدة على العالم."

ونحى زويل جانبا الجدل بشأن التعقيدات الدستورية التي قد تعوق الانتقال الى الديمقراطية اذا استقال مبارك على الفور قائلا انه يمكن ايجاد الاليات السليمة.

واضاف "السؤال هو هل لدينا الرغبة الكاملة في أن نفعله وبشكل سريع لانهاء تلك المشكلة كي يمكن للجميع العودة لاعمالهم ونضع البلاد على مسار جديد."

ورفض تقييم مدى اخلاص جهود عمر سليمان في ادارة انتقال السلطة الى رئيس جديد في ضوء وعد الرئيس بعدم السعي للترشح لولاية جديدة في انتخابات سبتمبر ايلول لكنه قال ان مجرد اصلاح النظام القديم لن يرضي المصريين. وأضاف "يمكن للجيش ان يلعب دورا مهما في ذلك .. في حماية البلاد خلال الفترة الانتقالية" مشيدا بتجنب الجيش المصري حتى الان لاستخدام القوة ضد المتظاهرين. وقال "ان شعب مصر سيحقق ما يريد. امل فقط ألا يتطلب الامر وضعا دمويا لاتمام الرحلة. هذا هو مصدر الخوف الوحيد المتبقي لدي."

ونصح زويل الولايات المتحدة والقوى الخارجية الاخرى بتوخي الحذر قبل التدخل فيما سماها ثورة داخلية حقيقية يقودها الشباب.

وقال "ما ينبغي للولايات المتحدة أن تفعله باستمرار هو دعم حرية الشعب المصري."

وسئل زويل عما اذا كان يرى نفسه مرشحا للرئاسة في المستقبل قال "المهم الان هو توجيه البلاد نحو خطوة ديمقراطية للامام .. وبعد ذلك أن يكون هناك دستور حقيقي .. ولندع الشعب المصري يفاجئنا بما يريد."

ورفض زويل فكرة أن الاخوان المسلمين ربما يختطفون الاحداث في مصر او أن معاهدة السلام بين مصر واسرائيل الموقعة في ١٩٧٩ مهددة قائلا ان الديمقراطية ستفيد المنطقة.

وقال ان الانتفاضة ضد حكم مبارك سيكون لها بلا شك صدى خارج حدود مصر. وتابع "يقولون دائما ان مصر هي قلب العالم العربي. هذا القلب ينبض. وسوف يتعين الانصات الى ايقاعه في أماكن أخرى

حملة ضد سماح أنور بعد مطالبتها بحرق متظاهرى التحرير

كتبت سماح حمدى

تحولت الفنانة سماح أنور إلى وجه مكروه فى الشارع بعد تصريحاتها لإحدى قنوات التليفزيون المصرية، دعت خلالها إلى "حرق كل المتظاهرين بميدان التحرير" لأنهم "خربوا البلد".

وقالت سماح أنور فى تعليقاتها التى تناقلتها الصحف باستغراب، نقلاً عن "العربية نت"، إن على الدولة أن تطلب ضرب المحتجين "بالطائرات والقنابل والسلاح النووى وعدم التأخر من أجل إنقاذ مصر".

وجاء الرد على شكل موجة هائلة من التعليقات الغاضبة والتهديدات الصريحة لأنور استهدفت صفحة مخصصة لمحبيها على موقع التواصل الاجتماعى facebook، احتوت على الكثير من التهديدات.

وارتفع عدد المشاركين فى الصفحة خلال يومين إلى ٣٦٦ عضواً من أجل الرد على تصريحاتها التى رآها كثير من المصريين غير لائقة. فيما نشر السينمائيون المصريون المعتصمون فى ميدان التحرير بياناً وقع عليه ١٠٩ فنانين. قالوا فيه: "نحن السينمائيون المعتصمون فى ميدان التحرير، كجزء من ثورة الشعب المصرى، نعلن أننا مستمرون فى اعتصامنا حتى يحقق الشعب المصرى جميع مطالبه الأساسية، والتى فى مقدمتها إسقاط النظام بكل رموزه، وعلى رأسهم الرئيس مبارك. وأن الشرعية الوحيدة هى شرعية الثورة المصرية العظيمة فى شتى أرجاء الوطن، والتى يرمز لها اعتصام ميدان التحرير".

النهاية

مصراوي: الجمعة ١١ فبراير ٢٠١١

مبارك يتخلى عن منصب رئيس الجمهورية ويكلف القوات المسلحة لإدارة البلاد

كتب- احمد الليثي وهيثم فارس:

أعلن عمر سليمان نائب رئيس الجمهورية عن تخلي الرئيس حسني مبارك عن منصب رئيس الجمهورية.

وقال سليمان مساء الجمعة ان مبارك كلف المجلس الاعلى للقوات المسلحة بادارة شئون البلاد في الفترة المقبلة.

وجاء في نص البيان الذي ألقاه سليمان:

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

ايها المواطنون فى ظل هذه الظروف العصيبة التى تمر بها البلاد قرر الرئيس محمد حسنى مبارك تخليه عن منصب رئيس الجمهورية وكلف المجلس الاعلى للقوات المسلحة بادارة شئون البلاد.

والله الموفق والمستعان

تنحي مبارك

وكانت شوارع مصر قد شهدت مظاهرات غير مسبوقة منذ ١٨ يوما تطالب برحيل مبارك.

وبلغت المظاهرات ذروتها اليوم الجمعة حيث خرجت الملايين في الشوارع والميادين وحاصرت قصور رئاسية ومبان حكومية.

مصراوي: الجمعة ١١ فبراير ٢٠١١

بعد خلع مبارك.. الصحف القومية والتلفزيون المصري يلهثون للحاق بالثورة

إعداد – هاني ضوّه :

ما بين عشية وضحاها.. غيرت الصحف القومية والتلفزيون المصري موقفهم من ثورة الشعب المصري التي أطاحت بحكم محمد حسني مبارك الذي استمر ٣٠ عاماً لعبت فيه مؤسسات الإعلام الرسمي دور "طبيب التجميل" لإخفاء ما شاب النظام والحكومة من عوار، في محاولة لتضليل المصريين، واسترضاء الرئيس المخلوع وأعوانه.

يبدو هذا جلياً في عناوين صحف الأهرام والأخبار والجمهورية، الذين هنأوا الشعب المصري – بالبونط العريض– بتنحي مبارك وتخليه عن منصب رئاسة الجمهورية، وذلك على الرغم من هجومها على الثورة وشبابها على مدار أيام.

ولنبدأ بصحيفة الأهرام، والتي بدأ تحولها منذ خبر إعلان تخلي مبارك عن الرئاسة، حيث أرسلت رسالة نصية على المحمول ضمن خدمة الرسائل الإخبارية كان نصها كالتالي: "الأرصاد : شمس الحرية تسطع .. ونسمات الديموقراطية تسود البلاد".

وفي عددها الصادر السبت ١٢ نوفمبر ٢٠١١ كتبت الأهرام في صفحتها الرئيسية بالبونط العريض أعلى ترويستها وفوق شعار الصحيفة مانشت يقول: "الشعب أسقط النظام"، وصدرت صفحتها الأولى كذلك صورى كبيرة لاحتفالات الشعب بخلع مبارك، وكتبت تحت الصورة مانشتات منها "شباب مصر أجبر مبارك على الرحيل"، و"سويسرا تجمد أي أرصدة محتملة للرئيس مبارك وأعوانه".

من جهة اخرى، وفي مقال بعنوان "لا لجيل الثلاثينات"، انتقدت الاهرام الامين لجامعة الدول العربية عمرو موسى والرئيس السابق للوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية محمد البرادعي ونائب الرئيس السابق عمر سليمان لاعلانهم في اوقات مختلفة استعدادهم قيادة البلاد.

وقالت الاهرام ان "كل الوجوه التي احتلت السياسة الرسمية لسنوات سنوات عليها ان تصمت الى الابد".

ليس هذا فقط، ولكن أصدرت "الأهرام" ملحقاً مع عددها باسم "شباب التحرير" جائت صفحته الرئيسية عبارة عن صورة كبيرة لمواطن يقبل علم مصر فرحنا برحيل مبارك، وكتب عليها "انتصرنا".

أما صحيفة "أخبار اليوم"، فأخذت نفس الاتجاه حيث صدرت صحفتها الأولى وأعلى شعار الأخبار أيضا صورة صغيرة – على عكس المعتاد – للرئيس مبارك وهو

يلوح بيديه، وكتب بجابها بالبونط العريض "ورحل مبارك"، وكأنها كانت في انتظار رحيله.

وأسفل شهارها وضعت صورة كبيرة للمتظاهرين في ميادن التحيري دمجت فيها صورة للمشير طنطاوي وهي يصافح أحد مجندي الجيش في التحرير وكتب مانشيت يقول: "قواتنا المسلحة: أنا الشعب".. بالإضافة لعدد من العناوين التي توحي لقارئ صحيفة "الأخبار" أنها يقرأ صحيفة معارضة، خاصة عندما تقول: "وانتصرت إرادة الشعب".

وفي نفس الطريق سارت صحيفة "الجمهورية" حيث تجرأت بعد خلع مبارك على التحدث في موضوعات لكم يكن قارئها يتخيل يوماً أن يجدها داخل أحد أعدادها، ومن تلك الموضوعات في افتاحية العدد الذي حمل عنوان: "٧٠ مليارا؟"، والذي تحدث عن امتلاك مبارك واسرته لسبعين مليار دولار، مؤكدة أن شعبية مبارك التي قامت على انه "نصير محدودي الدخل والفقراء تحطمت".

وطالبت الجمهورية الرئيس القادم بالشفافية قائلة: "الشفافية مطلوبة من الرئيس القادم، من حقنا ان نعرف ثروته قبل وبعد المنصب".

أما التلفزيون المصري والذي هاجم شباب الثورة واتهمهم بالعمالة للخارج وانهم أصحاب أجندات خارجية، وقللت من أعدادهم، حيث بث التلفزيون المصري

الرسمي صباح السبت بيانا هنأ فيه الشعب والجيش على نجاح الشعب في خلع مبارك، وأطلق على المظاهرات اسم "الثورة العظيمة".

وقال البيان الذي بثه التلفزيون صباح السبت ان "اتحاد الاذاعة والتلفزيون المصرية يهنيء الشعب المصري بثورته العظيمة التي قادها خيرة شباب مصر، ويقدم كل التحايا لقواتنا المسلحة لدورها العظيم في حماية الثورة وحفظ الوطن والمواطنين".. وتعهد التلفزيون المصري للمشاهدين أن يكون "أميناً في رسالته" في الفترة القادمة.

الأهرام السبت، ١٢ فبراير ٢٠١١

المصـــــــريون يحتفلـــــــون بسقـــــــوط النظـــــــام

بعد ثمانية عشر يوما من اندلاع ثورة ٢٥ يناير التي فجرها شباب مصر الشرفاء, تخلي الرئيس حسني مبارك أمس عن منصب رئيس الجمهورية.

وأعلن السيد عمر سليمان ـ نائب رئيس الجمهورية ـ في بيان مقتضب أذاعه التليفزيون المصري أن مبارك أوكل ادارة شئون البلاد للمجلس الأعلي للقوات المسلحة.

وفور إعلان نبأ تنحي مبارك انفجرت مظاهر الفرحة العارمة في شتي أنحاء البلاد, وخرج الملايين في جميع المحافظات إلي الشوارع والميادين ابتهاجا بتحقق أول مطالب الثورة المتمثل في إسقاط النظام.

وانعكست صورة الفرحة علي المعتصمين في ميدان التحرير والشوارع المؤدية إليه, حيث انضم مئات الآلاف إلي المعتصمين في الميدان, للاحتفال بهذه المناسبة التاريخية, حاملين أعلام مصر, مرددين شعارات الانتصار وسط الميدان الذي أصبح رمزا لثورة الشباب التي نجحت في إسقاط النظام والانتصار لإرادة الشعب.

ولم ينس المعتصمون وسط مشاعر البهجة والفرحة أن يكرموا شهداء الثورة من شباب وفتيات جادوا بأرواحهم في سبيل الحرية والكرامة, فطافوا الميدان حاملين صورهم, مؤكدين أنهم كتبوا بدمائهم شهادة ميلاد جديدة لمصر. ولم تكن البهجة والفرحة والسعادة بخبر تنحي مبارك بالإسكندرية أقل منها في القاهرة وسائر المحافظات.

فقد شهدت الإسكندرية أكبر تظاهرة احتفالية مساء أمس, حيث انطلقت الجموع الغفيرة في أطول مسيرة اسكندرانية امتدت عدة كيلو مترات, مرددة شعارات الله أكبر.. الجيش والشعب يد واحدة.. انتصرنا.. انتصرنا.. كما رددوا النشيد الوطني بلادي.. بلادي.. لك حبي وفؤادي.

وحرصت سيدات الاسكندرية علي المشاركة في فرحة الشعب, فانطلقت الزغاريد من شرفات المنازل, حيث وقفت النساء حاملات أعلام مصر, وملوحات بها تحية للمتظاهرين.

وحرص أبناء الشعب علي تحية أفراد القوات المسلحة الذين مروا بهم خلال مسيرات الاحتفال بانتصار إرادة الشعب وثورة الشباب.

وقد رحبت جموع المصريين بتولي المجلس الأعلي للقوات المسلحة ـ برئاسة المشير حسين طنطاوي القائد العام للقوات المسلحة ـ إدارة شئون البلاد.

ويضم المجلس الأعلي الفريق سامي عنان رئيس أركان حرب القوات المسلحة، وقادة الأفرع الرئيسية وقادة الجيوش والمناطق والهيئات والادارات العسكرية. ومن المتوقع تكوين مجلس قيادة لإدارة شئون البلاد, حيث سيتم تكليف إحدي الشخصيات بتأليف وزارة جديدة أو يتم تكليف نفس الحكومة الحالية مع تغيير بعض الشخصيات وإضافة شخصيات عسكرية أخري بدلا منها.

وأصدر المجلس الأعلي للقوات المسلحة بيانه الثالث أمس الذي أكد فيه أن المجلس ليس بديلا عن السلطة التي يرتضيها الشعب.

ووجه المجلس التحية لشهداء الثورة, كما وجه التحية للرئيس مبارك حربا وسلاما. وكان المجلس الأعلي للقوات المسلحة, قد أصدر أمس البيان الثاني الذي أكد فيه عددا من الأمور المهمة تتوافق مع مطالب الشعب المصري وتشمل:

> إنهاء حالة الطوارئ فور استقرار الحالة الأمنية للبلاد وعودة الحياة لطبيعتها.

> ضمان إجراء انتخابات رئاسية حرة ونزيهة.

> إجراء التعديلات التشريعية اللازمة.

> رعاية مطالب الشعب المشروعة وعدم الملاحقة الأمنية للشرفاء المطالبين بالإصلاح.

> ضرورة انتظام العمل في جميع مرافق الدولة.

> التحذير من المساس بأمن وسلامة الوطن والمواطنين.

وعقب إعلان نبأ التنحي بدأ التليفزيون المصري في إذاعة الأناشيد الوطنية التي تمجد روح مصر وتتغني بها.

وبعد أن كرر التليفزيون إذاعة البيان أكثر من مرة بدأ ينقل مظاهر الفرح التي عبر خلالها المتظاهرون أمام مبني الإذاعة والتليفزيون وفي ميدان التحرير عن سعادتهم, ثم بدأ في نقل تصريحات لعدد من المواطنين.

ويعد مبارك صاحب أطول فترة في حكم مصر منذ قيام ثورة يوليو عام١٩٥٢, حيث بدأ رئاسة لمصر في١٤ أكتوبر عام١٩٨١ حتي أمس, أي نحو ثلاثين عاما. كما يعد أول رئيس مصري تتم الإطاحة به في ثورة شعبية.

اذاعة صوت الوحدة (فلسطين) السبت ١٢-٠٢-٢٠١١

الحياة اللندنية: الجيش المصري مارس ضغوطا على الرئيس حسني مبارك ليتنحى

افادت صحيفة الحياة اللندنية اليوم نقلا عن مصادر مطلعة ان الجيش المصري مارس ضغوطا على الرئيس حسني مبارك ليتنحى. وذكرت صحيفة القدس العربي ان هناك انباء تفيد بان قرار مبارك التنحي جاء بعد تهديد قيادات الجيش له بتحويله للمحاكمة بتهمة الخيانة العظمى، الا ان مصادر اكدت ان اتساع الثورة وتحولها الى حالة من العصيان المدني شبه الكامل كان عاملا حاسما.

وبدورها قالت وكالة انباء اسوشييتد برس في تحليل إخباري ان الانتفاضة في مصر أحدثت انقلابا عسكريا حيث اصبح الجنرالات يمسكون الان بزمام الحكم، لأول مرة منذ حوالي ٦٠ عاما. وأشارت الوكالة الى ان قيادة الجيش المصري أصدرت مساء اول امس الخميس "البيان رقم ١"، علما بان هذه العبارة تشير عادة في العالم العربي الى وقوع انقلاب عسكري .

وكتب معلق صحيفة "الإندبيندنت" البريطانية ان الرجل المسن – اي مبارك – رحل في نهاية المطاف، ولم يسلم السلطة لنائبه بل للجيش .

ومن جهته قال زياد العليمي احد ممثلي "ائتلاف ثورة الغضب" في مصر انه ليس هناك تواصل بين هذا الائتلاف وبين المجلس العسكري الحاكم. واضاف يقول: "اننا متفائلون إزاء التعاطي مع مطالبنا من قِبل المجلس العسكري لانه يعرف انه جيش الشعب وعليه تامين الانتخابات الرئاسية والبرلمانية، ونحن نريد ضمانات بهذا الشان ."

من ناحية اخرى كتبت صحيفة "الجمهورية" القاهرية في مقالها الافتتاحي تقول انه لم يكن أحد يصدق أن الرئيس مبارك يمتلك وعائلته ٧٠ مليار دولار اذ ان اسمه لم يظهر أبدا في قوائم المليونيرات أو الأكثر ثراءً في العالم، خلافا لزعماء اخرين مثل سلطان بروناي والملك السعودي. وأشارت الصحيفة المصرية الى انتهاء شعبية الرئيس، التي قامت في الأساس علي أنه نصير محدودي الدخل والفقراء وبطل العدالة الاجتماعية. وتساءلت "الجمهورية": هل كنا نعيش في دولة مؤسسات أم في "مغارة علي بابا"؟ .!

ضباط دمياط ينضمون لزملائهم المتظاهرين أمام ماسبيرو

كتب محمد عبد الرازق

انضم ضباط وأفراد شرطة من مديرية أمن دمياط إلى المتظاهرين أمام مبنى الإذاعة والتليفزيون، وعرضوا مطالبهم التى تتمثل فى إثبات عدم هروبهم من أماكنهم، وناشدوا زملاءهم المتظاهرين العودة إلى عملهم حتى يتم تيسر جميع المرافق ويتقدموا بمطالبهم بعدما تستقر الأمور.

أكد ضباط دمياط، أن مطالبهم لا تتضمن رفع المرتبات، ولكن مجرد رفع الحالة النفسية وإعادة الثقة بين الضباط والجمهور حتى يستطيعوا العمل وتوفير الأمان فى الشارع، وأضافوا أنه حدث لبس فى المطالب وأن الوزارة يجب عليها إصدار بيانات أن الشرطة لم تتسبب فيما حدث يوم ٢٥ يناير.

وأشاروا إلى أن جميع الفئات والإدارات بالدولة بها مشاكل ولكن يمكن حلها فى الفترة الحالية بسبب الوضع الراهن فيجب تسيير جميع المرافق أولا حتى يمكن النهوض بالدولة وجميع المشاكل الإدارية حتى يتم تداولها من خلال القنوات الشرعية.

مصراوي: الثلاثاء، ١٥ فبراير ٢٠١١

مشادة ما قبل الرحيل.. مبارك يتهم جمال وسوزان بتوريطه والقضاء على تاريخه

كتب– أحمد الدسوقي :

كشفت صحيفة "القبس" الكويتية أن الرئيس السابق حسني مبارك دخل يوم التنحي في مشادات كلامية حادة مع زوجته سوزان ونجله جمال بعد أن حملهما المسؤولية عن مجمل حالة التدهور الحاصلة في وضعه.

ونقلت الصحيفة عن مصادر مطلعة ما وصفته بالقصة الحقيقية لليوم الأخير الذي أمضاه مبارك رئيسا للجمهورية قبل أن يحسم موقفة ليلا، ويعلن التنحي الكامل عن السلطة و تسليمها للمجلس الأعلى للقوات المسلحة.

وأوضحت المصادر أن الأسرة كاملة بمن فيهم زوجتا ابني الرئيس وأحفاده "التقوا لتناول طعام الفطور صباح الجمعة، وعلى الفور أشرفت سوزان مبارك على جمع أغراض زوجها الشخصية، وكلفت خادمتين خاصتين بها، تنتميان إلى إحدى دول المغرب العربي، بالتعجيل في جمع المقتنيات الشخصية للرئيس والتي تضم هدايا قيمة وثمينة تلقاها الرئيس وزوجته من ملوك ورؤساء دول عربية وأجنبية، وذلك في ثماني حقائب كاملة.

وأضافت أن خلافا شديدا وقع بين مبارك ونجله جمال،إذ قال له الوالد بالحرف الواحد: "ورّطتني، أنت وأمك، لقد قضيتما على تاريخي في مصر".

وقالت المصادر إن "مبارك كان في حالة نفسية يرثى لها، وبعدها اجتمعت الأسرة بأكملها وغادروا القصر في ثلاث سيارات، متوجهين إلى مطار ألماظة القريب من القصر، حيث استقلوا الطائرة الرئاسية وتوجّهوا إلى شرم الشيخ.

وذكرت الصحيفة أن الرئيس السابق كان قد تعرّض لحالة إغماء أثناء جلوسه مع عائلته الأسبوع الماضي. وكان مطلبه من رجال المجلس الأعلى للقوات المسلحة بعد تلبية جميع مطالبهم هو المحافظة على خروجه الكريم من الحكم.

مصراوى: الأربعاء ١٦ فبراير ٢٠١١

واشنطن بوست: ثورة ٢٥ يناير غيرت انطباع الامريكان عن الإسلام

كتبت – ولاء جبة:

ذكرت صحيفة الواشنطن بوست أن ثورة المصريين التى اندلعت يوم ٢٥ يناير قد غيرت الصورة الذهنية المتوفرة لدى الكثير من الامريكيين عند سماع كلمة "مسلم" أو "العالم الإسلامى" أو "الشباب المسلم" .

وأضافت الصحيفة فى مقال لأحد كتابها :"أن الكثير من الامريكيين كانوا عندما يسمعون لفظ مسلمين تذكروا طيارات تحلق فوق مركز التجارة العالمى، أو شباب يقوم بالإنتحار وتفجير نفسه، إذن فالمشكلة لم تصبح فى الصور التى نراها عبر التليفزيون، بل المشكلة الأكبر فى الصور التى فى أذهاننا حول المسلمين" .

وتابع الكاتب: "الثورة المصرية التى استمرت ١٨ يوم، هذه الثورة لم تطح فقط بالديكتاتور حسنى مبارك بل قدمت فيلما نفسيا جديدا للعالم كله حول مساهمات المواطنين المسلمين الذين تحدوا بكل شجاعة الغازات المسيلة للدموع وهراوات الشرطة وهم يهتفون "سلمية...سلمية"، وهم يسيرون فى ميدان التحرير يحملون

القرآن والإنجيل جنبا إلى جنب، وهم يهتفون "مسلم، ومسيحى كلنا مصرى"، مشيرا، أنه أثار اعجاب الكثير من الناس" .

ونوّه الكاتب إلى العواقب السيئة التى تحدث عندما يتم تصوير فئة من الناس بأسوأ الأشياء فى مخيلة العامة" .

وأكد الكاتب الامريكي فى مقاله : " من أسباب المعارضة الشرسة لبناء المساجد فى المجتمعات الأمريكية الأوروبية، هو اعتقاد النآس أن مهاجما انتحاريا سيأتى للصلاة فى يوم الجمعة سيتسبب فى تفجير المحلات الخاصة بهم، لأنهم يعتقدون أن كلمة مسلم تعنى "أسامة بن لادن" .

وتابع : " هذا لم يعد موجودا الآن، لأن ١١ سبتمبر لم يعد التاريخ الذى يشير إلى المسلمين، لأن ثورة ٢٥ يناير المصرية أصبحت هى التاريخ الذى يحظى بهذا الشرف" .

المصري اليوم: السبت ١٩ فبراير ٢٠١١

ليلة الوصول لـ«طرة»: جرانة يعترض على «الكلابشات».. والعادلى يرفض ركوب «البوكس».. وعز يلتزم الصمت

كتب أحمد شلبى، والبحر الأحمر ـــ محمد السيد سليمان وعلى الطيرى

قالت مصادر قضائية إن حبيب العادلى، وأحمد المغربى، وزهير جرانة، وزراء الداخلية، والإسكان، والسياحة السابقين، وأحمد عز، أمين التنظيم السابق فى الحزب الوطنى، تم استدعاؤهم صباح أمس، للتحقيق الذى استمر من الثانية ظهرا تقريبا وحتى التاسعة مساءً. وأضافت المصادر أن النيابة اتهمت عز بالحصول على رخصتين لإنشاء شركتين لتصنيع الحديد فى السويس دون وجه حق، الأمر الذى لم ينكره، وقال إن مصانعه هى الأكثر تطوراً وإنتاجاً فى الشرق الأوسط،

مشيرة إلى أن النيابة واجهت العادلى بتهمتى غسل الأموال، واستغلال النفوذ، لكنه نفى التهم، بينما طلب المغربى، وجرانة أجلاً لتقديم مستندات قالا إنها ستثبت براءتهما من تهم الاستيلاء على أراضى الدولة، فيما تجرى نيابة أمن الدولة تحقيقات مع قيادات أمنية سابقة من بينهم اللواء إسماعيل الشاعر، مدير أمن القاهرة السابق، فى واقعة قتل المتظاهرين.

وقال مصدر قضائى إن المتهمين الأربعة سيخضعون لتحقيقات أخرى أمام جهات قضائية مختلفة فى قضايا أخرى طوال الأسبوع الجارى، متوقعاً صدور قرار نهاية الأسبوع بإحالتهم إلى محاكمة عاجلة، مشيراً إلى أن بعض هذه القضايا موجود منذ فترة، لكن لم تكن هناك مستندات تؤكدها، مناشداً المواطنين الذين لديهم أى مستندات قد تساعد فى الوصول إلى حقائق، تقديمها إلى النيابة.

وروى ضباط وأفراد فى الشرطة لـ «المصرى اليوم» تفاصيل رحلة ترحيل المتهمين الأربعة من مجمع النيابات فى القاهرة الجديدة إلى سجن مزرعة طرة، مشيرين إلى أنه تم ترحيلهم فى سيارات منفصلة، مؤكدين أن عز كان يحمل حقيبة ملابس كان أحضرها معه إلى النيابة، واستقل سيارة الترحيلات دون أن يتكلم، فيما كان المغربى غاضبا وغير مصدق لقرار الحبس، وظل يهمهم بكلمات غير مسموعة.

وأضاف الضباط أن جرانة طلب عدم تكبيل يديه، إلا أن طلبه قوبل بالرفض، فيما كاد العادلى أن يتسبب فى أزمة، وارتفع صوته أمام النيابة عندما اقتاده الضباط إلى سيارة الترحيلات، حيث فوجئوا بقوله إنه لن يركب السيارة، وسوف يذهب بسيارته الخاصة، لكن ٥ ضباط صغار السن أصروا على أن يركب سيارة الترحيلات.

من جهة أخرى بدأت محافظة البحر الأحمر حصر ممتلكات عدد من الوزراء الحاليين والسابقين، ورجال أعمال، وبرلمانيين، وقيادات فى الحزب الوطنى، فى

المحافظة، خاصة مدينتى الغردقة، ومرسى علم. وأرسل المحافظ المهندس مجدى قبيصى إخطارات إلى رؤساء المدن بفحص الأراضى، والفنادق، والقرى السياحية، والقصور، والفيلات، المملوكة للدكتور أحمد نظيف، رئيس مجلس الوزراء السابق، ورجل الأعمال محمد أبوالعينين، والدكتور يوسف والى، وزير الزراعة الأسبق، والدكتور يوسف بطرس غالى، وزير المالية السابق، إلى جانب العادلى والمغربى وجرانة وعز.

المصري اليوم: السبت ١٩ فبراير ٢٠١١

«الداخلية» تدرس تحويل مباحث أمن الدولة إلى «جهاز معلومات» عن «الإرهاب».. وتحصر المعتقلين للإفراج عنهم

كتب - فتحية الدخاخنى ووائل على وحسن أحمد حسين وطارق صلاح وأسامة المهدى، والبحر الأحمر – محمد سيد سليمان وعلى الطيرى

أكدت مصادر أمنية أن وزارة الداخلية تدرس إعادة هيكلة جهاز مباحث أمن الدولة، ليصبح جهازاً معلوماتياً عن العناصر الإرهابية، وما يتعلق بمكافحة الإرهاب، وإلغاء مسؤوليته عن باقى الملفات التى كان يتولاها من قبل. وبدأت الأجهزة الأمنية فى مختلف مديريات الأمن على مستوى الجمهورية إجراء حصر شامل للمعتقلين الذين اتخذت بشأنهم إجراءات استثنائية وجنائية، تمهيداً لإصدار قرار بالإفراج عنهم عقب إلغاء حالة الطوارئ.

ونظم قيادات من الجماعة الإسلامية وأهالى المعتقلين، أمس، وقفة احتجاجية أمام مسجد عمر مكرم بميدان التحرير، للمطالبة بالإفراج عن ذويهم وإلغاء المحاكمات العسكرية للمدنيين. وطالب الدكتور محمود عزت، النائب الأول للمرشد العام لجماعة الإخوان المسلمين، بضرورة الإفراج عن السجناء السياسيين، إذ لا يوجد

مبرر لتواجدهم داخل السجون، خاصة بعد صدور العديد من الأحكام القضائية بالإفراج عنهم.

وطالب اتحاد الكتاب القوات المسلحة بالإفراج عن معتقلى ثورة «٢٥ يناير»، ودعا فى بيان أصدره، أمس، إلى إصدار عفو عام عن جنود وضباط الجيش والشرطة، ممن التحموا تحت سطوة مشاعرهم وعواطفهم الجياشة بالشرعية الثورية للجماهير، وأعلن البيان رفض المثقفين والأدباء استمرار وزراء الحزب الوطنى فى قيادة دفة الحكم حتى الآن.

من جهة أخرى، تنشر «المصرى اليوم» قائمة بأسماء ١٢ سجيناً قتلوا فى سجن دمنهور العمومى. وقال أمين شرطة بمديرية أمن القاهرة، إن إدارة السجن أطلقت سراح السجناء، وأطلق ضباط الرصاص على سجناء آخرين، ما أدى لمقتل ١٢ سجيناً، وأضاف أن إدارة السجن وضعتهم جميعاً فى طابور واحد أعلى سطح السجن وقتلتهم رمياً بالرصاص.

من جانبه، قال الرائد سامى بيومى، مسؤول السجن، إن النزلاء تظاهروا فى أعقاب الثورة، ونزعوا الأبواب والشبابيك وحاولوا الهرب عبر أسطح السجن، مما دفعنا لاستخدام الرصاص المطاطى لتفريقهم والسيطرة على تمردهم، وأسفرت الأحداث عن مقتل ٢ فقط، أحدهما مجهول الهوية.



باراك أوباما : يجب أن نربي أبناءنا ليصبحوا كشباب مصر



رئيس وزاراء ايطاليا : لا جديد في مصر فقد صنع المصريون التاريخ كالعاده



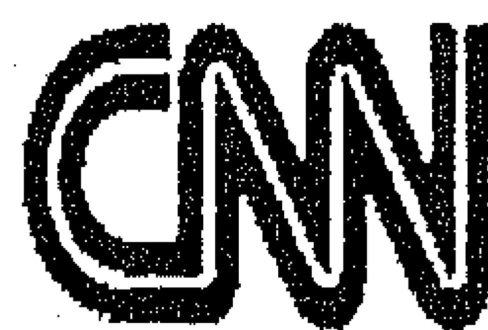
ستولتنبرج رئيس وزراء النرويج : اليوم كلنا مصريين



هاينز فيشر رئيس النمسا : شعب مصر أعظم شعوب الأرض و يستحق جائزة نوبل ل...لسلام



رئيس وزراء بريطانيا: يجب أن ندرس الثورة المصرية في المدارس



السي إن إن : لأول مرة في التاريخ نرى شعبا يقوم بثورة ثم ينظف الشوارع بعدها

ب. المصادر العربية:

الأهرام

المصري اليوم

الوفد

اليوم السابع

الجمهورية

روز اليوسف

مصراوي

الدستور

الحياة اللندنية

اذاعة صوت الوحدة (فلسطين)

The Huffington Post

http://www.huffingtonpost.com

The Los Angles Times

http://www.latimes.com

The New York Times

www.nytimes.com

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www.alarabiya.net

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www.cnn.com

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Almasry Alyoum

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CNN-Middle East

www.cnn.com/WORLD/meast/archive/index.html

The security officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media, said all four of the men would also be initially held for 15 days.

All four had previously been banned from travel abroad and had their assets frozen, measures that are normally a prelude to a criminal investigation and possible trial. They are among some dozen ex-ministers and businessmen who are under investigation for corruption or abuse of authority.

Most of those under investigation belonged to a clique of businessmen-turned-politicians who rallied around Mubarak's son and one-time heir apparent Gamal in the ruling party. Gamal Mubarak, 47, rose rapidly through the ranks of the party over the past decade to become the most powerful politician in Egypt after his 82-year-old father.

Gamal Mubarak and his circle of businessmen have been blamed for orchestrating economic reform that liberalized the economy but left the country's poor masses unable to reap the benefits of economic growth.

Ezz, an upstart who used his vast wealth to promote his political career, is widely blamed for the widespread fraud that marred parliamentary elections held in November and December. The ruling part won all but a small fraction of the chamber's 518 seats. Ezz has denied the charge in a TV interview.

The Washington Post: Thursday, February 17, 2011

Egypt arrests 3 ex-ministers, corruption alleged

By HAMZA HENDAWI

CAIRO -- Egyptian authorities arrested on Thursday former Interior Minister Habib el-Adly and two other ex-ministers who are under investigation for corruption, security officials said.

Authorities also arrested steel tycoon Ahmed Ezz, once a prominent member of the ouster leader Hosni Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party.

El-Adly, whose job gave him control over the 500,000-strong security forces, has been widely blamed for the deadly brutality used by riot police against demonstrators in massive protests that began Jan. 25 and forced Mubarak to step down Feb. 11. El-Adly served in his former post for 12 years.

News of el-Adly's arrest followed the detention earlier Thursday of former Housing Minister Ahmed Maghrabi, ex-Tourism Minister Zuheir Garana and Ezz.

All four face allegations that range from money laundering to abuse of authority and squandering state wealth.

The protesters who ousted Mubarak in 18 days of demonstrations against his regime often mentioned the deep corruption of the regime as a key reason behind their movement.

"We were not successful, and neither was the Egyptian opposition or civil society," Clinton said. "And the pressure just built up, and then we saw the results over the last three weeks."

assure Egyptians and the restive inhabitants of neighboring countries of the Obama administration's support for their democratic aspirations.

The White House also took the government of Iran to task for cracking down on public protests by its own people just days after Iranian officials hailed the popular uprising in Egypt.

"What we see happening in Iran today is a testament to the courage of the Iranian people and an indictment of the hypocrisy of the Iranian regime," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told reporters after leaving a meeting at the U.S. Capitol.

"A regime which over the last three weeks has constantly hailed what went on in Egypt and now when given the opportunity to afford their people the same rights, as they called for on behalf of the Egyptian people, once again illustrates their true nature."

Clinton repeated the attack in interviews with three Arabic-language news services.

Clinton insisted that the United States has been consistent in its advocacy for democratic reforms in the region, even with its closest allies.

"For many years, both privately and publicly, Democrats and Republican presidents and administrations have delivered the same message to the Egyptian Government: there must be reform, there must be change." Clinton said in an interview with AlHurra, the Virginia-based Arab-language satellite TV station.



February 15, 2011

Source: Egypt asks U.S. to freeze officials' assets

By the CNN Wire Staff

The post-Mubarak Egyptian government has asked the United States to freeze the financial assets of some officials from that country, according to a senior Obama administration official.

The official, who was not authorized to comment on the record, spoke to CNN on Monday on the condition of anonymity.

The identities of the Egyptian officials are unknown.

During a U.S. State Department briefing earlier Monday, spokesman P.J. Crowley was asked if Egypt had asked for the freezing of assets held by former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and family members in the United States.

"I am not aware of any specific request regarding any funds associated with President Mubarak," Crowley replied. "Obviously if the Egyptian government makes a particular request, we will take appropriate action."

The latest speculation about the status of Mubarak family assets in the United States came as U.S. officials on Monday stepped up efforts to

The Egyptian Gazette: Sunday, February 13, 2011

Egypt army rulers dissolve parliament

CAIRO - Egypt's new military rulers on Sunday dissolved a parliament dominated by the ruling party of former president Hosni Mubarak, two days after he was overthrown in a popular revolt, state TV said.

The legislative body was seen as illegitimate following elections last year that were marred by widespread allegations of fraud and gave Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP) an overwhelming majority.

In the same announcement, carried on state TV, the military said it had suspended the constitution and set an approximate six-month timetable for democratic elections that would bring a new civilian government to power.

On Ibrahim al Laqani Street, where fancy shops sell Western clothes in old-fashioned three-story buildings of Arabesque design, Abdul Aziz Nabil was walking a large shaggy dog on a leash, a rarity in a country where most dogs on the streets appear to be starving.

The recent university graduate said that opinion in Heliopolis, named for the ancient Greek city nearby, was mixed.

"Some people went into a coma from sadness, and some went into a coma from happiness," Nabil said. He said he spent some of the last 18 days demonstrating against Mubarak in Tahrir Square.

"The president did some bad things, but everybody makes mistakes," said his friend, Ebran Emad, 20. "We didn't have to treat him this way. But if everything they say really happens, that will be great."

Nabil said she resented "foreign interference," an apparent reference to the United States, but was still hopeful for Egypt's future.

Haitham abu Fatah said he saw little reason for hope. He was bitter about losing his job in the tourist industry because of the demonstrations, and now serves tea and coffee in a cafe.

"This is all nothing, and no rights will come of it," he said bitterly. "We are living in poverty, and we will never be the same."

A 45-year-old man who identified himself only by his first name, Rida, said he was born in the same area of Egypt as Mubarak. He said the president's departure "hurts me deep inside."

"I loved Hosni Mubarak and wanted him to stay, and I am so sad for him," Rida said.

Many of the wealthy patrons of the Heliopolis Sporting Club, which offers squash, water polo, cricket and tennis, may have supported Mubarak. But Ghada Howaidy, an administrator at the American University in Cairo, and her husband, Mamdouh Halawany, a dentist, went to the club Saturday with their young daughter in a celebratory mood.

"This is the best thing that could have happened," said Halawany, 52. "He stayed 18 years more than he should have," he said of Mubarak, who ruled for 30 years.

Howaidy said she had no fear of the army. "We are very confident about the future," she said.

Los Angeles Times

February 12, 2011

Some Egyptians can't help but feel sorry for Mubarak

In Heliopolis, a wealthy suburb of Cairo and site of the presidential palace, some residents rue the way the longtime ruler was forced out. 'It's not polite,' says one. 'He served the country for years.'

Reporting from Heliopolis, Egypt
As the wild celebrations of a new beginning continued Saturday in Tahrir Square, the atmosphere was decidedly more subdued seven miles away near the Heliopolis Sporting Club and President Hosni Mubarak's former official residence.

To be sure, there were some in this wealthy Cairo suburb who were ecstatic. A few who waved large Egyptian flags from their car windows as they passed through the wide tree-lined boulevards planned by a Belgian baron a century ago.

But there was none of the horn-thumping taking place in the central square that had been the heart of the revolt against Mubarak. Though many were reluctant to talk, some admitted to sadness.

"I'm not glad about the way he's been put out," said pharmacist Sandra Nabil. The Aruba Palace, built in 1910 as Africa's grandest hotel and which now serves as the presidential residence, is two blocks from her shop. "It's not polite: He served the country for years."

They handed out candy. Many prayed and declared: "God is great." Crowds packed Tahrir Square, the scene of massive protests against Mubarak that began on Jan. 25. The celebrations continued early Saturday, with throngs of people milling around in downtown Cairo.

A huge poster hanging in the square read, "Breaking news: The people have brought down the regime."

"Egypt is free," shouted Mahmoud Elhetta, a protest organizer. "We are a great people and we did something great. This is the expected end for every dictator."

Some, though, warned that Egypt still faces many challenges, including what they hope will be a peaceful transition to free elections and a full democracy.

"We still have a long way to go to fix things," said protester Hala Abdel-Razek. "What has been ruined by the Mubarak regime has to be fixed and we have to start rebuilding with the help of the young people."

A speaker on a podium said demonstrators would not immediately abandon the square because: "There is more to do."

The Washington Post: **Friday, February 11, 2011**

Mubarak leaves and Egypt celebrates

By HADEEL AL-SHALCHI and SARAH EL DEEB

CAIRO -- One Egyptian kissed the ground. Another rolled in ecstasy in the grass outside a presidential palace. People wept, jumped, screamed and hugged each other with a shared joy they had never known. Cairo erupted in a cacophony of celebration: fireworks and car horns and gunshots in the air.

President Hosni Mubarak resigned and handed power to the military on Friday, and Egypt held its biggest party in decades.

"The people have toppled the regime," chanted protesters, whose 18 days of swelling protests tipped Egypt into a crisis that the autocratic government could not undo.

"This is the happiest day in my generation," said Ali al-Tayab, a demonstrator who paid tribute to those who died in clashes with police and Mubarak supporters. "To the martyrs, this is your day."

At a presidential palace in Cairo, where demonstrators had gathered in the thousands, people flashed the V-for-victory sign and shouted, "Be happy, Egyptians, today is a feast" and "He stepped down."

Gibbs, however, also appeared to indicate that administration officials may have known Mubarak was stepping down before the official announcement was made in Cairo.

The White House had indications "that the last speeches may not have been given" by authorities after Mubarak delivered his poorly received address to the Egyptian people Thursday night, Gibbs said.

"Nothing less than genuine democracy will carry the day," he declared, promising that his administration is ready to provide assistance to America's longtime Middle Eastern ally.

Obama praised the Egyptian military for acting responsibly over the past three weeks and urged it to help ensure a credible transition that, among other things, ends emergency rule, ensures the enactment of key legal reforms and brings "all of Egypt's voices to the table."

"The wheel of history turned at a blinding pace" the past few weeks and disproved the notion that "justice is gained by violence," Obama concluded. "In Egypt, it was the moral force of nonviolence -- not terrorism, not mindless killing ... that bent the arc of history toward justice once more."

The president spent part of the afternoon huddling with his national security team in the White House Situation Room, said Tommy Vietor, a spokesman for the National Security Council.

Obama was in a meeting in the Oval Office when he learned that Mubarak was stepping down, Vietor noted. The president watched television coverage of the events in Egypt for several minutes afterward, Vietor said.

Obama did not talk to Mubarak or Egyptian Vice President Omar Suleiman before the announcement of Mubarak's resignation, according to White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs.



February 11, 2011

Obama praises Egyptian revolution

By the CNN Wire Staff



Top American officials welcomed Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's decision to step down Friday but urged all sides in Egypt's rapidly unfolding political drama to ensure a peaceful transition to democracy.

"The people of Egypt have spoken," President Barack Obama said at the White House. "Their voices have been heard, and Egypt will never be the same."

Obama said the sudden conclusion to Mubarak's three-decade rule was not "the end of Egypt's transition. It's a beginning."

The U.S. president warned that there are "tough days ahead" for Egypt but declared his confidence in the ability of the Egyptian people to "find the answers" they are seeking "peacefully, constructively and in the spirit of unity that has defined these last few weeks."

Parents were seen putting their children on the tanks to have their photos snapped with the soldiers, while the soldiers reached down to shake hands with the protesters and people chanted, "The people and the army are one hand." In a show of solidarity in at least lower levels of the army, three Egyptian officers shed their weapons and uniforms and joined the protesters.

"Now, we can breathe fresh air, we can feel our freedom," said Dr. Gamal Heshamt, a former member of parliament and a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. "Now we can start to build our country. After 30 years of absence from the world, Egypt is back."
Some people waved Tunisian flags, while young women danced on the hulking remains of burned out armored personnel carriers.

The Qasr al-Nil bridge, the sight of ugly fighting between the protesters and Mubarak supporters, was crammed from one end to the next with people cheering and chanting, "Egypt! Egypt! Egypt!"

"The Egyptian people are heroes," said Samia Mahmoud, 41, who said he works in the tourist industry in Sharm el-Sheik. "I'm hoping for a new Egypt."

Amr Sayed, 20, who had been in the square for the last 15 days, said simply, "The people wanted to take back their rights, and now they have."

Mr. Suleiman and it suggested that the military would supervise implementation of the reforms.

The military did not indicate whether it intended to take the kinds of fundamental steps toward democracy that protesters have been demanding. This was the second direct statement from the military in two days, and it largely stuck to the main constitutional and electoral reforms Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Suleiman had promised to implement. It was not immediately clear whether Mr. Suleiman would retain a role, under the military council, in running the country.

State radio reported that Naguib Sawiris, a wealthy and widely respected businessman, has agreed to act as a mediator between the opposition and the authorities in carrying through the political reforms, a development that was cheered by protesters.

In Tahrir Square, the focal point of the uprising, many protesters were overcome with the emotion of achieving their unlikely but determined quest to overthrow Mr. Mubarak. More than an hour after Mr. Suleiman spoke, the din was undiminished, as the celebrants, some in tears, shouted, sang, embraced and chanted. The slogan of the revolution, "The people want to bring down the regime," adopted from Tunisia, became, "The people, at last, have brought down the regime."

"He's finally off our throats," said one protester, Muhammad Insheemy. "Soon, we will bring someone good."

The departure of 82-year-old Mr. Mubarak, at least initially to his coastal resort home in Sharm el-Sheik, marked a pivotal turn in a three-week revolt that has upended one of the Arab's world's most enduring dictatorships. The popular protest, peaceful and resilient despite numerous effort by Mr. Mubarak's legendary security apparatus to suppress them, ultimately deposed an ally of the United States who has been instrumental in implementing American policy in the region for decades.

His departure leaves the military in charge of this nation of 80 million, facing insistent calls for fundamental democratic change and open elections. The military, which has repeatedly promised to respond to the demands of protesters, has little recent experience of directly governing the country. It will have to defuse demonstrations and strikes that have paralyzed the economy and left many of the country's institutions, including state media and the security forces, in shambles.

Shortly before the announcement of Mr. Mubarak's departure, the military issued a communiqué pledging to carry out a variety of constitutional reforms in a statement remarkable for its commanding tone. The military's statement alluded to the delegation of power to

The New York Times

February 11, 2011

Mubarak Steps Down, Ceding Power to Military

CAIRO — President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt resigned his post and turned over all power to the military on Friday, ending his 30 years of autocratic rule and bowing to a historic popular uprising that has transformed politics in Egypt and around the Arab world.

The streets of Cairo exploded in shouts of "God is Great" moments after Mr. Mubarak's vice president and longtime intelligence chief, Omar Suleiman, announced during evening prayers that Mr. Mubarak has passed all authority to a council of military leaders.

"Taking into consideration the difficult circumstances the country is going through, President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak has decided to leave the post of president of the republic and has tasked the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to manage the state's affairs," Mr. Suleiman, grave and ashen, said in a brief televised statement.

Even before he had finished speaking, protesters began hugging and cheering, shouting "Egypt is free!" and "You're an Egyptian, lift your head."

"The country has been liberated after decades of repression," he said adding that he expects a "beautiful" transition of power.

Another opposition figurehead, Google manager Wael Ghonim, tweeted: "The real hero is the young Egyptians in Tahrir square and the rest of Egypt#Jan25."

Reports that he has fled the country for a safe haven elsewhere in the Arab world - or for medical care in Europe - are inaccurate, sources told CBS News.

President Barack Obama was informed of Mubarak's decision to step down during a meeting in the Oval Office, reports CBS News correspondent Mark Knoller. He then watched TV coverage of the scene in Cairo for several minutes in the outer Oval. He will make an on-camera statement later today.

Mubarak reportedly left during or immediately after his speech to the nation last night, which was taped in advance.

Mubarak was widely expected to announce he was stepping down Thursday in a highly anticipated speech. Instead he said he would transfer some unspecified powers to Vice President Omar Suleiman and remain president until elections in September. As Mubarak's speech was broadcast, premature victory celebrations among protesters in central Tahrir Square turned to bafflement, dismay, and rage.

Now, however, protesters are celebrating.

Nobel Peace laureate Mohammed ElBaradei, whose young supporters were among the organizers of the protest movement, told The Associated Press, "This is the greatest day of my life."

Reporters in Tahrir Square said that the crowd reaction was "deafening." The hundreds of thousands of protesters chanted: "The people have brought down the regime."

Apparently in jubilation, one group of protesters broke through the barricades surrounding the building that houses Egypt's state television, but there were few reports of rioting or destruction, reports CBS News correspondent Elizabeth Palmer.

However, not all the post-resignation demonstrations were peaceful. A governor of a southern province was forced to flee to safety in the face of protests there.

The army is now very much in public favor, Palmer reports. If the military allows the celebrations to carry on for some time - perhaps hours or perhaps a few days - it will likely be in a credible position to ask the protesters to go home so that the country can begin returning to normal business and a democratic reform process.

Many reports estimate that Egypt's economy was losing about $300 million every day as a result of demonstrations and strikes.

Mubarak had fled Cairo earlier Friday, a day after transferring some power to Suleiman in an effort to quell weeks of protests.

The embattled ruler left the capital for the Red Sea resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh, where he has a private residence.

CBS News: February 11, 2011

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Resigns

VP Omar Suleiman Announces President Hosni Mubarak's Resignation; Military to Take Over President's Affairs

After 30 years in power, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has resigned.

On state-run TV Friday, the day of the biggest-yet anti-government demonstrations, Mubarak's appointed Vice President Omar Suleiman made the brief announcement of the president's departure from office.

"In these grave circumstances that the country is passing through, President Hosni Mubarak has decided to leave his position as president of the republic," a grim-looking Suleiman said. "He has mandated the Armed Forces Supreme Council to run the state. God is our protector and succor."

Mubarak had been facing historic demonstrations from hundreds of thousands of anti-government protesters throughout Egypt for the last 18 days.

In reaction to his resignation, the massive crowds demonstrating in Cairo broke out in wild celebrations.

The Dénouement
How the Story of the People Ended Happily

"I want my family to remember this forever," he said happily. "It's rare to make history. But this is truly history."

What if Mubarak didn't resign, he was asked. He frowned, and said, "We will stay until all our demands are met. Or we will all become martyrs."

Off on the side, protest leaders worked their cell phones in search of reliable news, and warned that they would not accept military rule, or a transition headed by a Mubarak aide.
"We want a civilian democracy, not a military rule," said Zyad Eleaimy, one of the protest organizers.

Moaz Malek said he couldn't find the words for how he felt. At 26 years old, he already has been jailed twice by Mubarak's regime. His father, industrialist Hasan Malek, has been a political prisoner for seven years.

"It is time for Egypt to be free," he said. "We need elections. We need democracy."

afternoon, Gen. Hassan Ruwaini, military commander for Cairo, had gone to Tahrir Square and told protesters, "All your demands will be met today."

So jubilant throngs poured into square all afternoon and into the cold night to savor the moment of victory and enjoy the first sweet taste of freedom. If there weren't a million people, it felt like there were.

Families hugged and wept, boys waved flags from atop statues and lampposts, and laughing men sang insulting songs about a tyrant who they thought was history.

Men whirled round in frenzied dances, or snaked through the crowd, banging on tambourines and cymbals, faces beaming in delight.

Movie stars, television hosts and sports celebrities laughed with their fans. Children ran underfoot while families rested in makeshift Bedouin-style tents lined with thick carpets.

Khaled ElShazly, 42, a lawyer, brought his wife and four children, ages 7 months to 12 years, to hear Mubarak announce his resignation. ElShazly wore his black legal robes, and his oldest son, Ahmad, wore an Egyptian flag like a cape. His wife wore the full facial covering used by some Muslim women.

engineer. "It would be better if he said nothing. We had our hopes up and he says nothing new."
"He's ignoring us," said Fatma Ali, 22, fighting back tears. "People have been killed for their freedom here. We have sacrificed everything, and he refuses to sacrifice his office."

Organizers said they would go ahead with a massive protest Friday, the start of the Muslim weekend, with marches in several parts of the city.

"Come back tomorrow," shouted a man atop a burned-out car being used as a barricade. "The fight is just beginning."

As many as 1,000 protesters left the square after the speech to march north along the Nile to the building that houses offices of state television, which has remained fiercely loyal to Mubarak even as other news media have changed their tone.

The army had ringed the building with troops, tanks, heavy machine guns and barbed wire.

Protesters said they would create an encampment similar to the tent city in Tahrir Square.

The protesters' frustration was all the more poignant because of signals just hours earlier that Mubarak would step down. In the

"Erhal! Erhal!" they chanted, thrusting clenched fists in the air. "Leave! Leave!"

They had come to witness history, the triumph of people power over a mighty Arab leader, the only president many of them had ever known.

They had celebrated through a long night of wild rumors: Mubarak had fled to Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Mubarak was in prison; Mubarak was being pushed out by the military.

The euphoria deflated like a popped balloon when Mubarak started speaking at 10:45 p.m. Some gasped out loud. Some began to weep when it became clear that the president would not step down.

The disappointment was palpable. Then so was the anger.

But if the crowd had been operating on false assumptions, it appeared that Mubarak was too. It was clear that the strongman had miscalculated if he hoped to appease his critics by saying he would turn presidential powers over to Vice President Omar Suleiman and that the government would implement a long list of reforms.

"He is making fun of us," said Anas Mohamed, 18, a college student who has joined the protests for the last 18 days. "I'm disgusted."

"He makes us much more angry tonight," said Omar Hesham, 30, an

Los Angeles Times

February 10, 2011

Mubarak speech turns elation in Tahrir Square to anger

Protesters celebrate after a general says their demands will be met. Then Mubarak refuses to step down.

By Bob Drogin, Los Angeles Times

Reporting from Cairo

President Hosni Mubarak's face glared down from a giant screen that rippled in the cold breeze above Tahrir Square. His gravelly voice boomed across a multitude of protesters standing silently, standing in shock, but most important, still standing.

When Mubarak stunned them by announcing that he would not quit, jeers filled the air.

When he said he was just like them, the countless thousands who have endured his 30-year rule and battled to bring democracy to Egypt, they laughed.

And long before Mubarak had finished speaking Thursday night, they answered in a roar that rolled across the square like a crashing wave until it drowned out the loudspeakers.

It said the two vice presidents discussed "restraining the Ministry of Interior's conduct by immediately ending the arrests, harassment, beating and detention of journalists, and political and civil society activists, and by allowing freedom of assembly and expression; immediately rescinding the emergency law; broadening participation in the national dialogue to include a wide range of opposition members; and inviting the opposition as a partner in jointly developing a road map and timetable for transition."

"'These steps, and a clear policy of no reprisals, are what the broad opposition is calling for and what the government is saying it is prepared to accept," the statement said. "Vice President Biden expressed the belief that the demands of the broad opposition can be met through meaningful negotiations with the government."

A senior administration official told CNN on condition of not being identified that the Egyptian government was "doing the kinds of things that need to be done, but they have to now deliver and Biden outlined some specific things that will demonstrate that they're delivering."

The essential question, according to the official, was whether Egyptian leaders were "truly willing to cede power to somebody else."



February 08, 2011

White House criticizes Egyptian government and vice president

By Tom Cohen, CNN

President Barack Obama's spokesman criticized the Egyptian government on Tuesday for arresting and harassing journalists and rights activists, and called comments by Vice President Omar Suleiman that Egypt is not ready for democracy "particularly unhelpful."

The remarks by White House press secretary Robert Gibbs reflected a growing U.S. dissatisfaction with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Suleiman, the intelligence officer Mubarak chose as his deputy to bring about reforms demanded by protesters who have convulsed Cairo and the Egyptian economy for more than two weeks.

In another sign of U.S. frustration with the pace of reform in Egypt, Vice President Joe Biden, in a phone call Tuesday with Suleiman, pushed for more progress, according to a White House statement.

Biden urged "that the transition produce immediate, irreversible progress that responds to the aspirations of the Egyptian people," according to the White House statement.

Toward the end of the interview, Ghonim began to cry as he looked at pictures of people reportedly killed during the demonstrations.

"I want to say to every mother and every father that lost his child, I am sorry, but this is not our fault. I swear to God, this is not our fault. It is the fault of everyone who was holding on to power greedily and would not let it go. I want to leave," he told Dream TV.

Ghonim then got up and walked out of the interview.

Earlier, his family said they were expecting Ghonim's release Monday, 10 days after his disappearance. His brother Hazzem Ghonim told CNN that he received word from Egyptian telecommunications billionaire Naguib Sawiris that authorities would release Ghonim by 4 p.m. (9 a.m. ET).

Wael Ghonim is a Dubai-based marketing executive for Google in the Middle East.

"Heading to Tahrir square now. Sleeping on the streets of Cairo, trying to feel the pain of millions of my fellow Egyptians," Ghonim tweeted on January 26.

Ghonim's Twitter account, which had not had a posting since he went missing January 28, carried a tweet around the same time. "Freedom is a bless (sic) that deserves fighting for it," the tweet said, ending with the hashtag "#Jan25," a reference to the protests in Egypt.

Minutes later, Ghonim added this tweet: "Gave my 2 cents to Dr. Hosam Badrawy. who was reason why I am out today. Asked him resign cause that's the only way I'll respect him."

Hossam Badrawi, often described as a relatively liberal politician, was recently elevated to become secretary general of the ruling National Democratic Party.

Later Monday, Ghonim gave an interview to Egypt's Dream TV, in which he described his ordeal and involvement in the protests.

He said he was kidnapped at night as he was trying to get a taxi. "All of a sudden, four people surrounded me. They were kidnapping me. I yelled, 'Help!' But of course I knew these were security forces," he said.

Ghonim told Dream TV he was the administrator behind the influential "We are all Khaled Said" Facebook page that helped to organize and galvanize the protests. The page was dedicated to the memory of a young man allegedly beaten to death by police in Alexandria.

"We must bring down this political system that we have," he said.



February 07, 2011

Google executive is released in Egypt

By the CNN Wire Staff



Google executive Wael Ghonim was released Monday in Egypt, the company said, more than a week after he went missing.

"Huge relief -- Wael Ghonim has been released. Our love to him and his family," the company tweeted shortly after 8 p.m. in Cairo (1 p.m. ET).

The U.S. government has encouraged talks between Mubarak's government and its opponents over the past few days, in part out of recognition that an orderly transition to democracy could prove difficult if Mubarak suddenly steps down without laying any groundwork first.

"We can't dictate what an orderly transition means, but it's time for both of them to roll up their sleeves," one senior State Department official said earlier Friday.

Members of the opposition, a disparate group of at least six factions and political groups nominally headed by Mohamed ElBaradei, are still "jockeying," the official said, hedging their bets on how events will play out, and some are refusing to negotiate unless and until Mubarak steps down.

The official said the administration believes Mubarak's vice president -- Omar Suleiman -- is sincere in his willingness to talk with the opposition, although talks are still in the initial stages.



February 04, 2011

Obama to Mubarak: Listen to Egyptian people

By the CNN Wire Staff

President Barack Obama said Friday that talks between the Egyptian government and its political opponents were in the initial stages, but warned that the mere "pretence of reform" would not be enough to resolve that country's deepening crisis.

The transition of power "must begin now" and lead to "free and fair elections," he declared. Negotiations must "include a broad representation of the Egyptian opposition," he told reporters.

Asked if embattled President Hosni Mubarak needs to step down now -- as opposed to waiting for a successor to be chosen in Egypt's September elections -- Obama said Mubarak needs to consult with advisers and listen to what's "being voiced by the Egyptian people."

The Egyptian leader is "proud" but also a "patriot," Obama said. Mubarak needs to make a judgment about his legacy and the best "pathway forward." Violence and repression have no role in the "orderly transition process," he added. "The whole world is watching."

Obama noted he has had two conversations with Mubarak since the crisis began.

"We're not leaving," Omar Adli, a bearded anti-Mubarak protester, said before running off to exchange punches with a pro-Mubarak foe. "We'll sit under the tanks if the army tries to stop us."

retreating toward a handful of candy and pistachio shops that remained opened.

Another group of Mubarak supporters chased foreign journalists, striking them with sticks and fists.

By 3 p.m., the two sides were facing off along a promenade next to the vaunted museum, hurling rocks and pieces of dug-up pavement.

It resembled an old-fashioned turf war. First the pro-Mubarak supporters, screaming in unison, rushed forward, forcing their foes back with an avalanche of rocks. Then the anti-Mubarak crowd picked up the same rocks and hurled them, forcing the Mubarak supporters to retreat.

Throughout the fighting, the small military contingent stationed at the square stood by watching. Tanks positioned 100 yards from the fighting did not move. Even checkpoints into the area, which were staffed by soldiers, were left open, allowing hundreds more pro-Mubarak supporters to flood into the already volatile plaza.

At one point, the mobs moved within a few yards of each other, engaging in a brief brawl.

Finally the military positioned large green trucks in the middle of the road to create a buffer zone between the two sides. But two hours later, those trucks had been destroyed by rocks and fire, ignited by the pro-Mubarak force's Molotov cocktails.

At first the crowd's mood was festive, though tense. People waved flags, kissed photos of Mubarak and paraded down the street on camels costumed like those usually seen at the Giza pyramids. Many said it was probably one of the largest pro-Mubarak rallies ever held.

At some point, however, the professed desire for a return to normality gave way to anger, taunts and violence.

Some of the Mubarak loyalists marched toward Tahrir Square, crossing the Nile and gaining numbers along the way.

Those on camel and horseback were among the first to arrive. The sight of the camels took many anti-Mubarak protesters aback. When the riders turned whips and sticks on pedestrians, panic swept the square. A few riders were pulled off their animals and beaten, television footage showed.

Soon afterward, thousands more pro-Mubarak demonstrators approached the square, walking without interruption through military checkpoints.

Inside the plaza, protesters who had been camped out for days seemed to sense the coming danger. Men linked arms and formed double human chains at main entry points. As the leading edge of the pro-Mubarak force approached, shouting matches broke out and punches were thrown.

By the famous Groppi Cafe, at least a thousand pro-Mubarak demonstrators charged toward the square, tossing rocks and then

Shortly before midnight, anti-Mubarak protesters had gained the momentum, circling around alleyways to attack the pro-presidential forces from the right. They dug up steel fence posts and other pieces of metal, which they used as shields against rocks and fire.

Then they pounded on the metal in unison in a threatening din as they drove their foes toward the edge of the square. At one point, they appeared to be singing, their voices reverberating through the streets, punctuated by the sound of gunfire.

The day had begun peacefully enough, with the first mass rally of Mubarak supporters taking place in the posh shopping district of Mohandeseen.

Many who gathered there said they were saddened by Mubarak's announcement Tuesday night that he would relinquish power in the fall after three decades at the helm. Calling for a return to stability, some expressed fear that an immediate resignation by Mubarak would throw Egypt into chaos. They said they were tired of the government-imposed curfew, the closure of banks and other businesses, and of having to protect their homes with the help of vigilante squads since police walked off the job Saturday.

"No one can run this country like Mubarak," said Hossem Foda, 34, a Cairo taxi driver. "It's like Saddam in Iraq. When Saddam was gone, no one else could run the country. We don't want our country destroyed."

"I couldn't run away," said the man, who wouldn't give his name. "I acknowledged their right to say yes to Mubarak. They should acknowledge ours."

Three deaths were reported at the square and hundreds of people were injured, government officials said. Gunfire occasionally crackled and it appeared that the military was exploding sound grenades in an attempt to disperse the combatants.

As the front line moved up and down the promenade and each side advanced and retreated, one or two fighters would invariably fall behind and be caught by the other side. When anti-government protesters captured one such Mubarak supporter, they dragged him off to a side road and pummelled him. A woman beat him with a two-by-four. Finally, other anti-government protesters stepped in and dragged him to the military to protect him.

In the heat of the rock-throwing volleys, one anti-Mubarak protester stood atop an overturned container, just behind the front line, waving an Egyptian flag and refusing to stop even as stones rained down on him.

By dusk, pro-Mubarak protesters had positioned themselves on rooftops of office and residential buildings, hurling rocks and Molotov cocktails on their rivals below. Not long after, anti-government protesters occupied their own rooftops, and hurled their own firebombs.

Los Angeles Times

February 03, 2011

Celebration turns to chaos in Egypt

Enraged mobs, for and against President Hosni Mubarak, fight each other with sticks, rocks and their bare hands in Cairo's Tahrir Square. At least three Egyptians are killed.

By Edmund Sanders, Ned Parker and Laura King

Reporting from Cairo

Within minutes, the buoyant mood inside Tahrir Square turned into a fight for survival — and for Egypt's future.

Like two medieval armies, screaming, enraged mobs — both hoisting Egyptian flags and professing love of country — clashed violently Wednesday with rocks, sticks and Molotov cocktails. Soldiers stood by passively as the pitched battle between supporters of President Hosni Mubarak and those seeking his immediate ouster threatened one of the nation's most treasured sites, the Egyptian Museum.

The periphery of the square took on the look of a city of zombies as stunned anti-government demonstrators poured out of the plaza with bandaged, blood-smeared faces.

One man, walking alone, had thick white gauze wrapped around his head and chin. He slumped his shoulders and spoke in a hollow voice.

indication that Mubarak has asked them to step in, but intends to keep them in their traditional role.

"The Egyptian Army is trying to stay out of this," the official said. "This is a military force, not a police force."

The official said, "We have indications the Egyptian government wants the Ministry of Interior to take the lead" in restoring order. The official acknowledged that those police forces controlled by Interior are less popular with the Egyptian people, but said the U.S. strongly supports having the Army stay out of the unrest.

"The chairman thanked him for the continued contact, reiterated his desire to see the situation return to calm and expressed his confidence in the Egyptian military's ability to provide for their country's security, both internally and throughout the Suez Canal area," Kirby said in a statement e-mailed to reporters.



February 02, 2011

U.S. official: Egyptian military trying to stay out of the fray

By the CNN Wire Staff

Egyptian officials are indicating that the Egyptian Army is trying to stay out of the clashes between protesters and pro-Mubarak forces, according to a U.S. official.

The assessment comes after a Tuesday morning phone conversation between Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his Egyptian counterpart, Lt. Gen. Sami Enan. The unnamed official has direct knowledge of talks between U.S. and Egyptian officials but is not authorized to speak on the record.

During that call, Mullen did not ask his military counterpart specifically what their plans were, the official said. The two had agreed to talk about developments after first talking over the weekend.

Enan updated Mullen on recent developments in the wake of President Hosni Mubarak's speech, according to a statement from Mullen spokesman Capt. John Kirby.

The Egyptian Army fundamentally is not stepping into the growing unrest in Cairo because it believes its job is "stability and presence," based on the latest U.S. intelligence, the U.S. official said. There is no

got his family out of the country. They're out of danger. He doesn't care if the rest of us die. That's why we won't stop until we push him out of office."

The boys agreed. A young man with a sharpened machete joined them as Ibrahim led the boys through the alley.

circulated through the city. Some families have bought guns from drug dealers. The other night, shots rang out from a stolen ambulance.

"My biggest fear, though, is that Mubarak will stay in power," Antar said.

He pointed to a skyline of smokestacks. There should be a job for him there, but he and Afifi, both standing in sandals near an ash pile, said that is not how Suez works. National industries are controlled by the ruling party, and the private ones have cut thousands of jobs.

"There is no opportunity for the young who live here," said Afifi. "We have ports and an industrial area known worldwide. We have factories. The hiring is politically connected to Mubarak's party. They send somebody to manage, and he brings in his friends and the people from his province. We try to pick up work as painters and laborers."

"Those jobs don't last," said Antar. "When the price of cement goes up, the building stops and we have nothing."

They shook their heads and listened for gunfire.

On the other side of town, Abdel Ibrahim held his ax. Hands stained with rust, he has been a welder since he was 8. He earns about $100 a month, if the price of steel doesn't rise. Boys stood in the alley with him; mothers dropped baskets on ropes out windows to haul up vegetables from a man with a donkey cart.

"Everyone is responsible for protecting this neighborhood," Ibrahim said. "We don't want the police to come back. I'm sure the president

of stealing a cell phone. Soldiers jumped down to protect the man. The still-popular Egyptian army, which filled the vacuum since police retreated last week, has become the rule of law.

"He's a thief!" the crowd yelled.

"I was just passing by," said the man.

An army commander listened to both sides. He let the man go.

People in the mob grumbled and then dispersed, while around the corner, women dressed in sequins and lame, determined that life should go on through the tumult, slipped into a restaurant for a wedding reception. On the other side of the street, an anti-Mubarak demonstration began as a bulldozer pushed a charred police car from the road.

"People will keep rebelling here," said Seood Omar, a labor leader dressed in a blazer. "This was a city that stood against the Israelis in 1973. We don't back down. We're more revolutionary and courageous than much of the country. This was even so under British occupation."

Many of the factories along the sea have been shuttered. Soldiers with bayonets stood guard over oil refineries. Tankers and freighters lay low in the Gulf of Suez, aloof to the smoke and chants in the streets, awaiting passage through the Suez Canal.

Abdou Afifi and Ahmed Antar heard gunshots and started their neighborhood patrol early. Weapons looted from police stations have

The protests and fervor against Mubarak rise, but beyond the echoes of rebellion, uncertainty and desperation pervade. Looters prowl. Gas stations remain closed. Bread lines grow. Paychecks never arrive. This country has long been chaotic, but, through daily ingenuity and cleverness, it worked.

Now, something has changed.

Egyptians seem a family adrift. Anger against the government has bonded them, and Mubarak's patriarchal hold, which many thought unbreakable, has been shattered. But there is deep worry about what will come next. And there is talk that if the president is not immediately toppled, the retribution by the police will be severe.

"The government kept us poor. We didn't talk about politics because we were trying too hard to survive," said Kamal Banna, a chemical factory worker on strike in Suez. "Then we started talking about politics and they started killing us. There's no way back for us now. Mubarak has to leave. If the police come back, they'll want revenge."

Banna looked away for a moment. When the mass demonstrations began last week, he said, he saw police open fire on a crowd, killing three people in the street.

"The protests will never stop," he said, "but they may fade. It's the fear. Even with all these people dead, we still haven't accomplished the main thing. Mubarak remains in power."

Around the corner, past the burned fire station, a mob chased a man. They grabbed him and hauled him to an army tank. They accused him

Boys gathered around him with clubs and knives. His brother held a gun made of lead pipe and a trigger. Building fires smoldered and the dead had been buried, but Ibrahim's small, ragged army suggested new graves may soon be dug.

There were no police officers in sight. Their headquarters had been burned. So had the fire department. In this port city of salt air and factory smoke, where resentment over President Hosni Mubarak has been ingrained over decades, the government is the enemy.

"This cleaver's not enough to protect us from the police," said Ibrahim's brother, Yusef. "That's why I invented this gun."

The protests sweeping Egypt have been particularly bloody in Suez. At least 30 people have been killed here. Years of repressed hatred over police corruption, beatings and intimidation have turned the city into a storm, gusting, turning strangely quiet and gusting again. Many of the rich have fled, the workers have taken to the streets, the poor hurry to market before curfew.

"Mubarak is a murderer," reads a wall of graffiti.

"We will not forget the martyrs of the revolution."

Like much of the country, Suez has become a place of eerie twilights and tense mornings. Small fires burn at vigilante roadblocks guarded by men with sticks and swords and cutlery pulled from kitchen drawers. Boys stand watch too, their slender bodies tilted by the weight of their lead pipes. The congenial Egyptian spirit, which has sustained this nation for centuries, is under strain from within.

Los Angeles Times

February 2, 2011

Fear and desperation grip Egypt port city of Suez

Egyptian protests have been unusually bloody in Suez, where men and boys arm themselves with makeshift weapons and wait for what is to come. They fear Mubarak's police, but fear even more that he may stay in power.



In a poor section of the city of Suez, young Egyptians take up arms to protect their neighborhood.(Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times)

By Jeffrey Fleishman, Los Angeles Times

Reporting from Suez, Egypt

Abdel Ibrahim waited in the alley with an ax.

Some opposition parties that had previously refused to meet with government officials, however, told CNN Friday they have agreed to meet with Suleiman on Saturday.

Refat Said, head of the left-leaning Tagammu party, said his group will meet with the vice president, as will the liberal Wafd party. Ayman Nour, head of the al-Ghad party, said members of his group will decide soon on whether they will accept the government's invitation to meet.

"Based on promises that the government gave us that they will investigate into the Tahrir Square clashes, we agreed to meet tomorrow," said Fouad Badrawi, secretary-general of the Wafd party.

Protesters did not get their wish and thousands remained in the square well into the night, defying a curfew that has been widely ignored. Heavy gunfire was heard in and around Tahrir Square.

Among the demonstrators were the secretary-general of the Arab League and the spokesman for the largest center of Sunni Muslim learning, two men representing pillars of authority.

Attempts to defuse the crisis, meanwhile, were halting but ongoing. Government brass had signalled a wish to meet with opposition leaders but those talks have not yet gained traction, a senior U.S. official told CNN Friday.

Vice President Omar Suleiman's offer to meet opposition groups fell flat, said the official, who did not want to be identified because of the sensitivity of the rapidly evolving situation. No key opposition leaders showed up.

That opposition, a disparate group of at least six factions and political groups nominally headed by Nobel laureate Mohamed ElBaradei, is still "jockeying," the official said, hedging their bets on how events will play out. Some have refused to negotiate until Mubarak steps down.

"The so-called dialogue is the first step to exhaust this revolution. The president must go," said Mohammed Habib, deputy chairman of the Muslim Brotherhood, an opposition Islamist group officially banned by the government.



February 02, 2011

Tens of thousands demand change in Cairo's Tahrir Square

By the CNN Wire Staff



Egypt's burgeoning reform movement drew tens of thousands of people, undeterred by deadly clashes and government crackdowns, to Cairo's Tahrir Square on Friday for a mass rally with a single message for the president: "Leave."

The central Cairo plaza transformed from a bloody battleground to the scene of a largely peaceful political rally dubbed "Day of Departure" as Egyptians gave embattled President Hosni Mubarak until the end of the day to relinquish power.

network. Reported fatalities in the previous eight days of demonstrations ranged as high as 300, but CNN has not been able to independently confirm the death toll.

In one surreal moment, whip-wielding Mubarak supporters thundered through the crowd astride horses and camels, and at least one man was pulled off his mount and beaten. A Mubarak supporter who spoke to CNN said the riders were pyramid workers who were protesting the negative economic impact of the crisis.

The source of the gunfire was not immediately known.

Voices were heard chanting a prayer after a day of violent street battles in central Cairo.

Sustained automatic weapons fire, including from what sounded like a heavy machine gun, echoed around the square, the epicentre of nine days of protests calling for Mubarak's ouster.

Anti-government demonstrators hunkered down behind makeshift barricades in the square and outside the nearby national museum against the onslaught, which demonstrators said included plainclothes police officers.

"They're coming in with weapons. They're spreading violence," human rights activist Gigi Ibrahim told CNN on Wednesday. "We've had peaceful protests here since Friday and no violence here. Only today were we faced with this really violent reaction."

The pro-government protesters were not impeded by the army when they entered the square, CNN's Ben Wedeman said early Thursday. Anti-regime protesters are now unhappy with troops, whose commanders had promised Monday not to use force against peaceful demonstrations, for standing by, he said.

Small fires burned in the square early Thursday, some spreading to trees and walls.

Egypt's health ministry reported three people were killed and 639 were wounded in Wednesday's clashes, according to the state television



February 02, 2011

New gunfire erupts in central Cairo

By the CNN Wire Staff



Heavy gunfire reverberated in central Cairo before dawn Thursday as supporters and foes of embattled Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak continued to face off at Tahrir Square, where chunks of concretes and Molotov cocktails were employed as weapons in the escalating crisis.

CNN personnel saw wounded people being carried into Tahrir Square, largely held by anti-regime demonstrators, through an entrance that leads to the nearby Egyptian Museum. Several ambulances entered and left the square shortly before 4 a.m. Thursday.

The transition called for by Clinton "means change, and what we've advocated from the very beginning is that the way Egypt looks and operates must change," Gibbs told reporters.

At the same time, he said it is not the place of the United States to support or oppose the possible ouster of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"This is an opportunity both for Ambassador Wisner, who has a history with some of these key figures, you know, to meet with them and reinforce what the president has said, what the secretary (Clinton) has said, at the same time has the opportunity to gain a perspective on what they're thinking and what their ideas are in terms of ... the process that we've clearly called for."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton outlined the administration's stance in separate interviews Sunday with five television networks, saying the "complex, very difficult" situation in Egypt requires careful progress toward a peaceful transition to democracy rather than any sudden or violent change that could undermine the aspirations of the protesters.

"There's no easy answer," Clinton said on CNN's "State of the Union." "And, clearly, increasing chaos or even violence in the streets, prison breaks, which we've had reports about -- that is not the way to go.

"We want to see this peaceful uprising on the part of the Egyptian people to demand their rights to be responded to in a very clear, unambiguous way by the government, and then a process of national dialogue that will lead to the changes that the Egyptian people seek and that they deserve," she said.

On Monday, White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs said Egypt's government should engage in "meaningful negotiations with a broad section of civil society, including opposition groups," and hold "free and fair elections" in September.



February 01, 2011

U.S. dispatches former Egypt envoy to Cairo

By the CNN Wire Staff

The Obama administration has sent a former U.S. ambassador to Egypt to meet with officials there, a government official said Tuesday.

National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor said the United States asked Frank Wisner to go to Cairo.

"As someone with deep experience in the region, he is meeting with Egyptian officials and providing his assessment." Vietor said.

When asked Monday whether Wisner was a formal envoy, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley noted that "he's a private citizen" but "a retired diplomat."

Wisner "knows some of the key players within the Egyptian government," Crowley said, and officials thought it was "useful" for the former ambassador to interact with people within Egyptian society.

Crowley said Wisner arrived in Cairo Monday.

"We'll look forward to hearing his perspective," he told reporters at the daily briefing.



January 30, 2011

Egyptian government orders Al Jazeera shutdown

By the CNN Wire Staff

Egyptian authorities have said they are shutting down Al Jazeera's Cairo bureau, the network said in a statement Sunday.

"Al Jazeera sees this as an act designed to stifle and repress the freedom of reporting by the network and its journalists," the network said. "In this time of deep turmoil and unrest in Egyptian society it is imperative that voices from all sides be heard; the closing of our bureau by the Egyptian government is aimed at censoring and silencing the voices of the Egyptian people."

The network's Arabic-language channel was off the air in Egypt Sunday afternoon, but Al Jazeera English was still on the air.

Egypt's information ministry announced Sunday that it was revoking Al Jazeera's license and withdrawing accreditation of the network's staff, state media reported.

"Egypt's media department has decided to shut down the Al Jazeera channel," said an anchor on state-run Nile TV.

Al Jazeera said it planned to continue its coverage of the unrest in Egypt.

"We have all become vigilantes ... it's like the Wild West," he said. "Where is the security?"

Mubarak faces toughest challenge

Roughly 1,000 inmates escaped from Prison Demu in Fayoum, southwest of Cairo, state-run Nile TV reported early Sunday.

After days of silence, the embattled Mubarak acted swiftly Saturday. He fired his entire cabinet, then tapped two new leaders to stand by his side.

Mubarak appointed his trusted and powerful intelligence chief, Omar Suleiman, as his deputy, the first time the authoritarian regime has seen such a post. He also asked Ahmed Shafik, the civil aviation minister in the cabinet that just stepped down, to form a new government, state-run Nile TV reported. Shafik is a former Air Force officer with strong military connections.

But Egyptians fed up with what they see as Mubarak's hollow promises for reform were hardly appeased. In a fifth day of protests engulfing the Arab world's most populous nation, people took to the streets, chanting "Down with Mubarak" and burning pictures of the authoritarian leader.

CNN Arabic

"There is very little in terms of real power that the president still has," CNN's Ben Wedeman said from Cairo. "The army is controlling the street, but politically there is a complete vacuum."



January 29, 2011

Mubarak hangs on to power as protests, looting convulse Egypt

By the CNN Wire Staff

Relative calm settled on Cairo in the hours before sunrise on Sunday, after tens of thousands of demonstrators defied a curfew on Saturday to demand change and new fears of anarchy spread as President Hosni Mubarak clung to power.

As Mubarak tried to redeem his 30-year rule, the world's attention fell on central Cairo, where the Army was deployed to replace police forces that clashed brutally with demonstrators. But with many Cairo neighborhoods left without any security, Egyptians began to feel the sting of politics cutting into personal safety.

Shops and businesses were looted and abandoned police stations stripped clean of their arsenals.

In one area, residents set up barricades and handed out sticks and kitchen knives as defense measures. Another group of men armed themselves and planned to sit outside all night to guard their houses.

"There have been no police officers on the streets since this morning," Cairo resident Sherief Abdelbaki said. "All the men are trying to protect the ladies, their wives and children."

Since Egypt's independence from Britain in 1952, the nation's presidents — Gamal Nasser, Anwar Sadat and Mubarak — have been military officers.

But by entering the streets, bolstering the much reviled police, the army may jeopardize its standing with a new generation of young, educated Egyptians. That, however, wasn't immediately apparent.

"We want the military to protect us!" chanted many protesters in Tahrir Square. "The police are beating us!"

Others yelled, "The army and the people are one hand!"

terrorism," he said. "I came today very peacefully with my son. They threw stones at me. But the next time I won't come empty-handed."

The nation's mood changed from fear to joy to rage; but most pervasive was a sense of not knowing who was in charge or what was unfolding. When riot police retreated late in the day and the army moved in to impose order, it was a cause for celebration.

Protesters flashed victory signs as military police took positions in Cairo's central Tahrir Square. But suspicion grew when new volleys of tear gas and rubber bullets were fired. Many Egyptians suspected that the army was preparing to clamp down and rally around Mubarak, who enjoys the loyalty of top commanders.

"We're really afraid now that the army's intervention means that they will give the country back to Mubarak," said Ragab Nasr.

"The army's presence is just a game to distract the protesters. Every time the army appears, we are bombarded with tear gas and rubber bullets from the police," protester Sharif Amin said early Saturday.

By midnight, much of Cairo was calm. Despite a curfew and the distant smell of tear gas, hundreds of people, including families with children, milled about in the city center. Some stopped for coffee; others chatted with police.

"When President Mubarak addressed the Egyptian people tonight, he pledged a better democracy and greater economic opportunity," Obama said. "I just spoke to him after his speech and I told him he has a responsibility to give meaning to those words."

Early Friday, security forces shut down the Internet and cell phone systems to disrupt Twitter and other social networks that activists have used to communicate and organize protests.

Swaths of Cairo, normally teeming with traffic, were nearly desolate, and then, a crowd of protesters would swell across a street, turning back cars.

The government imposed a curfew. Hotels advised tourists to stay in their rooms. Police officers arrested journalists and confiscated cameras.

"The police are trying to kill this protest as quickly as they can because they know they can't win in a long war with the people," said Ahmed Abdel Zaher, 25, shielding his face from plumes of tear gas outside a Cairo mosque. "We are rising now. I was born under Mubarak and it seems I might die while he's still in power. But, God willing, this protest will be endless."

Mohammed Kamel was frightened: "The government is breeding

people when aligned with student activists and young professionals worried about their future.

After being sprayed with water cannon and stung by tear gas, ElBaradei, who for many has been the symbol for a new Egypt, said the crackdown revealed a "completely desperate" regime that had to be overthrown.

He bluntly challenged the U.S. and other Western allies of Mubarak that it was "time for the international community to express its view on the so-called stability of the Egyptian government. If they don't do that now, they will lose the residue of credibility they have in Egypt and the rest of the Arab world."

ElBaradei was placed under house arrest later Friday.

Washington has for years depended on Mubarak for help on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, fighting terrorism and other key issues, and provided Egypt with billions of dollars in aid. Speaking in Washington hours after Mubarak appeared on television, President Obama suggested that continued U.S. support may depend on immediate reforms.

"Going forward, this moment of volatility has to be turned into a moment of promise," Obama said.

changing personalities while sticking to the ideology shared by the inner circle of the ruling National Democratic Party.

"It's the same as if nothing has happened," Alaa Thabet, a protester in the center of Cairo, said after Mubarak's speech. "As long as he is in power, he will bring another government that will keep giving us the same bad policies."

Through the days, demonstrators swept across Egypt, with the country veering toward anarchy. Protesters stormed the boulevards of Alexandria and Suez.

In Cairo, they battled with police on a downtown bridge, Qasr el Nil, as tear gas canisters spiraled and hissed when splashing into the Nile. Bloodied demonstrators and police officers were carried away as crowds set fire to the headquarters of the ruling party and attempted to storm the Foreign Ministry and state TV office. The army moved in to protect government buildings.

State television reported that 13 people were killed in Suez and several more in Cairo, adding to the toll from earlier in the week.

The breadth of the revolt was an indication that Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mohamed ElBaradei, the former head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Muslim Brotherhood, the country's largest opposition party, can bring out large numbers of

The statement was characteristic of Mubarak, a former air force officer who for three decades has crushed dissent and silenced opponents. He only briefly touched on the severe poverty, inflation, unemployment and other social problems that helped trigger the protest movement.

"I know all the things people are asking. I've never been separated from them," said the 82-year-old president, dressed in a dark suit and looking pale. "I will always be on the side of the poor."

Those words alone are unlikely to placate tens of thousands of protesters, who have braved tear gas, beatings, rubber bullets and water cannons while chanting "Down with Mubarak!"

Egyptians have been emboldened by the revolt in Tunisia, where weeks of demonstrations ended President Zine el Abidine ben Ali's 23-year rule this month and forced him to flee the country.

But unlike Tunisia, Egypt is at the heart of the Arab world and people across region long frustrated by entrenched, corrupt leadership were gripped by images of pitched battles in the streets of Cairo.

And Mubarak, unlike Ben Ali, did not flinch or offer concessions. Dismissing his Cabinet probably will amount to little more than

Los Angeles Times

January 28, 2011

Mubarak promises reform, but defends crackdown on protesters

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak dismisses his Cabinet and addresses the nation, defending the crackdown and urging calm. His speech comes after a day of intense protests that drew thousands to the streets of Cairo.

By Jeffrey Fleishman and Amro Hassan, Los Angeles Times

Reporting from Cairo

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak dismissed his government but gave no sign in a defiant national television address early Saturday that he would be driven from office by widespread protests that have shaken his security forces, killed at least 25 people and left spirals of smoke across the capital.

His speech shortly after midnight was an indication that he believed his security forces and military had a tight grip on the country despite protests Friday that shut down much of Cairo, Alexandria, Suez and other cities. It highlighted the pivotal role the Egyptian military, long regarded as the quiet, stabilizing power behind the government, will probably play in coming days.

"I take responsibility for the security of this country and its citizens," Mubarak said. "I will not let this country live in fear.... I am dismissing the government and will appoint a new one."

Mubarak has been in power for 30 years, during which time Egypt has established itself as one of the most important powers in the region and a strong ally of the United States. At the same time, the long-time ruler and his regime had a reputation for restricting freedoms and staunchly holding onto power.

Resistance in the past had often been stifled by either political manuevering or the police, members of which were out in full force this week. But rarely have they met an opposition force as large, or as apparently determined.

"Police have always been violent, but we haven't seen it this way," Sarah Sirgany, a reporter for Daily News Egypt who has been posting regular developments on Twitter, told CNN's Piers Morgan. "We haven't seen this many people on the streets at the same time."

Video footage from Friday showed throngs of protesters charging down a bridge over the Nile River in Cairo, overrunning police trucks that fired off tear gas with minimal effect. Elsewhere, demonstrators torched and ransacked the headquarters of Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party.

When protesters circled the Ministry of Information in Cairo on Friday, they were greeted by police, who responded with sharp cracks of gunfire.

It's not clear whether police shot at protesters or into the air, whether their bullets were rubber or steel, whether anyone was wounded or killed.



January 28, 2011

Energized protesters press for 'freedom,' revel in making history

By the CNN Wire Staff

"Freedom!"

That word, yelled out in Arabic, reverberated Friday along the banks of the Nile River in Cairo -- as well as in the port city of Alexandria, near the canal in Suez, and other pockets of Egypt. Many demonstrators voicing their desire for a new government and new political future remained on the streets well into Saturday morning, defying a curfew and revelling in a historic day in a nation whose history dates back millennia.

By early Saturday, police were nowhere to be seen in the capital of Cairo, with military forces deployed on streets all around the nation for the first time in more than three decades. They were ordered out by President Hosni Mubarak, whom many demonstrators were urging to step down or, at least, institute dramatic economic and political reforms.

"We want (Mubarek) to leave," said Ahmed, whose last name was withheld to protect his identity. "His time is over," the 19-year-old law student said early Saturday from Raml Square in central Alexandria.

A senior Obama administration official, meanwhile, said Friday evening that Mubarak's speech was "hardly conciliatory and highly disappointing, but what did you expect?"

"When President Mubarak addressed the Egyptian people tonight, he pledged a better democracy and greater economic opportunity," Obama said from the White House.

"I just spoke to him after his speech, and told him he has a responsibility to give meaning to those words, to take concrete steps and actions that deliver on that promise," Obama said in a televised appearance. "Violence will not address the grievances of the Egyptian people. Suppressing ideas never succeeds in making them go away."

Mubarak gave no indication that he would step down or leave the country.

"I assure you that I'm working for the people and giving freedoms of opinion as long as you're respecting the law," he said. "There is very little line between freedom and chaos."

At the same time, Mubarak said that "these protests arose to express a legitimate demand for more democracy, need for a greater social safety net, and the improvement of living standards, fighting poverty and rampant corruption."

"I understand these legitimate demands of the people and I truly understand the depth of their worries and burdens and I will not part from them ever and I will work for them everyday," he said. "But regardless of what problems we face, this does not justify violence or lawlessness."

CNN Arabic



<u>**January 28, 2011**</u>

Egypt cracks down on mass protests as Mubarak dissolves government

<u>**By the CNN Wire Staff**</u>

Embattled President Hosni Mubarak said early Saturday that he asked the country's government to resign after thousands of angry Egyptians defied a government curfew and faced stinging police tear gas as they marched for change.

"I asked the government to resign today and I will commission a new government to take over tomorrow," Mubarak said in a national address on Saturday shortly after midnight.

As Mubarak spoke, Egyptian tanks rolled into the country's major cities after the nation's police force had been largely faced down by protesters on Friday. Demonstrators burned many police stations in Cairo and Alexandria and overturned and torched police vehicles.

Mubarak faces toughest challenge

U.S. President Barack Obama spoke with the Egyptian president after Mubarak's address.

The Climax

The servers for the Egyptian government's sites and for the U.S. Embassy in Cairo also appeared to be down.

"We are closely monitoring the situation and are aware that communication services, including social media, are being blocked," U.S. State Department Spokesman P.J. Crowley said Thursday. "We continue to urge Egyptian authorities to show restraint and allow peaceful protests to occur."

Facebook is aware of reports of service disruption and saw a drop in traffic from Egypt Thursday morning, company spokeswoman Jillian Carroll said in a statement.

Government officials could not be immediately reached to comment on the internet and text message situation.

Egypt's Interior Ministry said Thursday that no protests will be permitted on Friday, but some Egyptians were going door to door in Cairo on Thursday night, urging their neighbors to participate.

Opposition leader Mohamed ElBaradei arrived in Cairo on Thursday and said "there is no going back" on change.

ElBaradei, the Egyptian Nobel laureate, said people have taken to the streets because they "realize the regime is not listening, not acting."

"The barrier of fear is broken," ElBaradei said after he arrived in Egypt from Europe on Thursday. "And it will not come back."



January 27, 2011

Egyptians brace for Friday protests as internet, messaging disrupted

By the CNN Wire Staff

Hours ahead of what are expected to be massive displays of anti-government ferment across the world's most populous Arab nation, the internet went dark in parts of Egypt early Friday, and text messaging appeared to be blocked.

The Muslim Brotherhood has called for its followers to demonstrate after weekly Muslim prayers on Friday, the first time in the current round of unrest that the largest opposition bloc has told supporters to take to the streets.

Egyptian authorities arrested a prominent Muslim Brotherhood leader in Friday pre-dawn hours, detaining the party's main speaker, Issam al-Aryan, according to his son-in-law.

Police came to al-Aryan's Cairo home at 2.30 a.m. local time, his son-in-law said.

According to multiple web services that check whether servers used by specific sites are active, the servers of Egypt's main internet provider were down early Friday.

Now that the Arab street is alive with the power of the people for the people and by the people, will policies in Washington, London and Paris accommodate their pursuit of democratic reform?

November parliamentary elections), rampant state corruption and the persistent use of social media helped draw Egyptians from every walk of life, many of whom had never participated in demonstrations and many of whom felt their frustrations could no longer be silenced. This is the Egyptian street in the strictest sense of the word... the silent majority no longer silent.

Despite the number of tear gas canisters fired at protesters and the number of those who have been beaten and detained, there is a feeling among many Egyptians that a long dormant patriotism and pride has been finally awakened.

Ironically perhaps, the notion of Arab unity, long a running joke in the region, is being felt for the first time as many Arabs pledge solidarity and support for the people of Tunisia and Egypt.

Egypt is the most populous and influential Arab country, a socio-political stalwart. What happens there will resonate in the region and produce a ripple effect much more powerful in magnitude and impact than Tunisia's. Over the past few days, protests in Yemen have grown in strength and gusto.

For years, Western nations have used the lack of democratic reforms in the Middle East and North Africa as leverage to pressure and manipulate ruling dictatorships to bend to foreign interests.

When people go hungry and are unable to provide for their families, are forced to bribe their way to survive inflation, are unable to voice their frustrations and forced to watch as the ruling elite grow more powerful and richer, frustration eventually steamboils into public outbursts of anger.

And so, too, is Egypt's story.

It was not the US State Department, WikiLeaks, foreign influence or Israel that instigated the protests earlier this week.

It was not the increasingly cornered Muslim Brotherhood or the defunct and dysfunctional political opposition groups and parties which assembled on the streets of Cairo, Alexandria, Mahala, Suez, and Ismailia.

Inspired by events in Tunisia, voluntary grassroots mobilization brought people to the streets on January 25, taking everyone, even the organizers by surprise. Misery loves company, the saying goes, but so does dissent.

In years past, the small opposition groups like Kefaya and April 6 were barely able to muster several hundred protesters, usually outflanked and outmanned by black-clad riot police. This time the picture was reversed; it was the security forces that found themselves outnumbered.

Mimicking the Tunisian experience, decades of economic and socio-political disenfranchisement, electoral fraud (most recently during the

Decades of often brutal repression against civil liberties, iron-clad control of the media, corrupt economic policies, single-party rule and the establishment of police states contributed to stifling Arabs' pursuit of true democratic practices.

If one really thinks about it, Arabs (with the exception of Lebanon decades ago) in the region have never known democratic or even pluralistic rule. In the post-colonial era immediately after World War II, it was revolutions and coups by the military that ushered in dictatorships. Coups and counter-revolutions, often bloody as in the case of Iraq in 1958, largely silenced civil society and forced reformists to flee the country.

The 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty further entrenched some of these dictatorships as governments which repressed their peoples but later covertly supported the so-called Middle East Peace Process curried favor with Washington and were labeled as "moderates."

Tunisia was one of these countries, a regular stop for Bush administration officials soliciting the help of former president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in stamping out political Islam. In return, Tunisia under his rule was referred to as "stable".

But it's the economy, stupid. Tunisia may have been secular and had progressive laws guaranteeing women's rights but what good are such developments when university graduates struggle to find meaningful employment? In the town of Sidi Bouzid, where the spark of revolution was lit, unemployment had hit 30 percent.

HUFFPOST WORLD
THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY

January 27, 2011

Arab Earthquake: Egypt Is the Region's Turning Point

While media analysts debate whether social media is fueling revolt in the Middle East and North Africa or whether the US has helped keep regional dictatorships in power, one thing is very clear: The Arab masses are sick and tired of being sick and tired.

From Tunisia spread a renewed hope that Arabs are experiencing a re-awakening of the collective conscience. The protests we have seen there as well as in Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Algeria and Yemen are not simply about the deposition of an authoritarian president or ruling party.

They are about dismantling archaic forms of governance in which the ruler is considered to be beyond reproach and economic policies are determined by his self-preserving business elite allies.

During World War I, Turkey was referred to as the sick man of Europe. But in the 21st Century as Turkey, Israel and Iran came to dominate the discourse in the region, Arabs realized that they were suffering from a malaise - one they helped to propagate by wallowing in self-defeatist insecurities.

Tunisia also lacked the oil resources of other Arab states and the ethnic divisions seen in other Middle Eastern countries, which make it harder for opposition movements to unite, he noted.

Looking at the protests Tuesday in Cairo, Mamoun Fandy of the International Institute for Strategic Studies told CNN he was not seeing a "turning point or tipping point yet."

Noting the strength of the army, he said, "The Egyptian system is too strong and too resilient."

A key question that will show the potential strength of the demonstrations Tuesday is whether hardcore protesters will stay through the night, or whether the rallies will fizzle down, he said.

Eric Trager, a Ph.D. candidate in political science at the University of Pennsylvania and a former Fulbright fellow in Egypt, wrote in The Atlantic, "Egypt's liberal activists overwhelmingly come from the wired generation of Twitter and Facebook, and this makes them optimistic that pro-democratic movements can go viral, even in a political environment as traditionally illiberal as the Middle East... Yet Egyptian activists face tremendous odds -- in particular, an entrenched dictatorship that is determined to discredit the very idea of domino-effect democratization."

Time.com published a story Thursday from writer Abigail Hauslohner in Cairo headlined, "After Tunisia: Why Egypt Isn't Ready to Have Its Own Revolution."



January 25, 2011

Will Egypt follow Tunisia's lead?

By the CNN Wire Staff

Thousands of people who filled the streets of Cairo Tuesday hope their demonstrations against corruption and failing economic policies will cause upheaval in the government, like the similar protests in Tunisia that inspired them.

But analysts caution that in Egypt, the protesters are up against a different set of challenges.

Juan Cole, a Middle East historian at the University of Michigan and blogger, describes Tunisia as "a little bit unique."

"There have been lots of civil wars. There's been lots of societies in turmoil. But this kind of phenomenon where you had crowds peacefully coming into the streets to demand a change in their own contract with their government -- in the Arab world proper, this is the first time it's happened and it's the first time since 1979 in the Middle East," Cole told CNN last week.

He noted that Tunisia is the "most secular country in the Arab world." Its traditions have favored women's rights and its Islamist influence is negligible.

"It's the lie that toppled a dictator," he said.

Those closest to his rebellion — his sisters, the other vendors — seemed to focus on the slap and Mr. Bouazizi's wounded male pride. The other young men in town, armed with their own tales of injustice, marveled at his example. And as the story has traveled past the olive groves and cactus that surround Sidi Bouzid, others saw a tale of oppression, despair and recovered dignity. In the last few weeks, people in other impoverished countries have started mimicking Mr. Bouazizi's act.

"I'm sad for their families," said Samia Bouazizi, his sister, as she hurried from interview to interview, sharing a family's personal tragedy with the world. "I know what they go through."

number of patients doubled during the unrest, injured from beatings or bullets. Two men who had been shot died of their wounds.

Today, the city is transformed. The main avenue now bears the name Mohamed Bouazizi in spray paint. A sculpture that carries his now-famous picture is the site of frequent demonstrations and freewheeling political arguments, the things that Tunisians say Mr. Bouazizi made possible.

The inspectors in Sidi Bouzid now wear street clothes, too frightened to wear the blue overcoats with the epaulets and the stripes. The vendors no longer run.

Ms. Hamdy, arrested on orders from the now-deposed president himself, is in jail in another town. Her colleagues maintain that she is honest and did not take bribes. Her supervisor, who requested anonymity for fear of being beaten in the streets, said an investigation found that Ms. Hamdy had never slapped Mr. Bouazizi.

"Do you really believe a woman can slap a man in front of 40 other people and no one would react?" he said. He also drew attention to the fact that the news media erroneously reported that Mr. Bouazizi was a college graduate. "Anyway, we respect him as a human being," he said.

Ms. Hamdy's brother, Fawzy Hamdy, was more conflicted. He said he was among the first to join the protests in Sidi Bouzid and was thrilled by the revolution. But he also said he did not believe his sister had mistreated Mr. Bouazizi.

spare time at the Fustat cafe downtown, engaged in the local diversions of smoking and playing cards.

Despite his struggles to work, he was easygoing and liked to laugh. His relatives saw no hint of depression, and though they said Mr. Bouazizi refused to pay bribes, they could not recall any time where he had made such an unyielding stand.

The protests in Sidi Bouzid were small at first, starting soon after the fire seared Mr. Bouazizi's clothes to his body and burned off his lips.

Bilal Zaydi, 20, saw the vendor's relatives and friends outside the governor's office that afternoon, throwing coins at the gate. "Here is your bribe," they yelled. Over the next day and half the protests grew and the police "started beating protesters, and firing gas," he said. Mr. Zaydi, a high school student, slept during the day, and then he and his friends would take on the police at night.

At the same time, news of the unrest was spread on the Internet by people like Shamseddine Abidi, a 29-year old interior designer who posted videos and updates to his Facebook page. A journalist from Al Jazeera was one of Mr. Abidi's Facebook friends, and quickly the Arabic channel, almost alone, carried the news abroad.

"I did my best," Mr. Abidi said. "It's a miracle."

Labor leaders said their members quickly joined the demonstrations, which grew violent in the face of increasingly brutal police retaliation. Dr. Ali Ghanmi, who works at the hospital in Sidi Bouzid, said the

I know this from personal experience. "People are accustomed to seeing injustice and staying silent," he said. "It was like we were colonized."

Everyone in Sidi Bouzid has a story about a bribe: to get a loan, to start a business or to land a job.

In the world of the fruit and vegetable vendors, the bribes were small — 10 dinars, about $7, to appease the inspectors, or sometimes just a bag of fruit, the vendors said. When the municipal inspectors would arrive, the vendors had three options: to run and leave the fruit that some of them had bought on credit, to offer a bribe or to pay a fine of 20 dinars, the equivalent of about $14, or several day's wages.

Mr. Bouazizi had received two fines in the last two years, according to officials with the municipality, though other vendors and his family say he was frequently harassed.

His first name was actually Tarek, but he went by Mohamed. He was not a college graduate, as earlier reports had said. He had been a vendor since he was a teenager, and had worked odd jobs since he was 10, his relatives said. His father, a construction worker in Libya, died of a heart attack when he was 3, said his mother, Mannoubia Bouazizi. She later married Mohamed's uncle.

Mr. Bouazizi made it to high school, but it was unclear whether he graduated: a cousin said he devoured literature and especially poetry, but his mother said he preferred math. He had a girlfriend, but they had broken up recently. He was a soccer fan and spent much of his

People in Sidi Bouzid use the words "impossible" or "miracle" to describe the events of the last month. But they also say that what transpired was much more likely here, in this impoverished, agrarian central Tunisian city, with a history of resistance to colonial rule and nothing to lose.

The country's official unemployment rate is 14 percent, concentrated among young people, but the rate is much higher in Sidi Bouzid, say local union leaders, who put it at higher than 30 percent. Neglected by successive central governments, bereft of factories, seized with corruption and rife with nepotism, Sidi Bouzid and the small towns surrounding it are filled with idle young men, jobless, underemployed or just plain poor.

There are jobs at a toy factory, one of the two biggest plants in town, but they pay only about $50 a month. People with college degrees head for the more affluent coastal cities or settle for less.

Mr. Ben Ali rarely visited Sidi Bouzid, and when he did, local politicians paved roads and arranged for the planting of fully-grown trees to hide their neglect. On the edge of town, there is a gleaming youth center with fenced-off skateboard ramps that appear untouched. Residents said no one uses the center, which is reserved for people with connections.

Amin Beyaoui, an English teacher who was able to find work in a town 20 miles away, said: "There are Ping-Pong tables. But they only let a few people use them, like teachers. Young people can't use them.

The revolution has rippled beyond Tunisia, shaking other authoritarian Arab states, whose frustrated young people are often written off as complacent when faced with stifling bureaucracy and an impenetrable and intimidating security apparatus. That assumption was badly shaken with Mr. Bouazizi's reaction to his slap, and now a picture of him, in a black jacket with a wry smile, has become the revolution's icon.

In a series of interviews, the other fruit vendors, officials and family members described the seemingly routine confrontation that had set off a revolution. They said that Mr. Bouazizi, embarrassed and angry, had wrestled with Ms. Hamdy and was beaten by two of her colleagues, who also took his electronic scale. He walked a few blocks to the municipal building, demanded his property, and was beaten again, they said. Then he walked to the governor's office, demanded an audience and was refused.

"She humiliated him," said his sister, Samia Bouazizi. "Everyone was watching."

Sometime around noon, in the two-lane street in front of the governor's high gate, the vendor drenched himself in paint thinner then lit himself on fire. A doctor at the hospital where he was treated said the burns covered 90 percent of his body. By the time he died on Jan. 4, protests that started over Mr. Bouazizi's treatment in Sidi Bouzid had spread to cities throughout the country.

On Jan. 14, the president, Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, fled the country.

The New York Times

January 21, 2011

Slap to a Man's Pride Set Off Tumult in Tunisia

SIDI BOUZID, Tunisia — Mohamed Bouazizi spent his whole life on a dusty, narrow street here, in a tiny, three-room house with a concrete patio where his mother hung the laundry and the red chilis to dry. By the time Mr. Bouazizi was 26, his work as a fruit vendor had earned him just enough money to feed his mother, uncle and five brothers and sisters at home. He dreamed about owning a van.

Faida Hamdy, a 45-year-old municipal inspector in Sidi Bouzid, a police officer's daughter, was single, had a "strong personality" and an unblemished record, her supervisor said. She inspected buildings, investigated noise complaints and fined vendors like Mr. Bouazizi, whose itinerant trade may or may not have been legal; no one seems to know.

On the morning of Dec. 17, when other vendors say Ms. Hamdy tried to confiscate Mr. Bouazizi's fruit, and then slapped him in the face for trying to yank back his apples, he became the hero — now the martyred hero — and she became the villain in a remarkable swirl of events in which Tunisians have risen up to topple a 23-year dictatorship and march on, demanding radical change in their government.

martyr to crowds of students and the unemployed protesting against poor living conditions.

Boukhadra who was unable to provide him a job and a house, the daily El Khabar newspaper said. He died on Saturday of his burns. About 100 young men protested over Mohsen's death in the town, in Tebessa province, 700 km east of Algiers. The governor of the province sacked the mayor, El Khabar said.

Several Algerian towns, including the capital Algiers, have experienced riots in recent weeks over unemployment and a sharp rise in the prices of food staples.

Official sources say two people have been killed and scores were injured during the unrest, which unfolded in parallel to street violence in Tunisia and demonstrations over high food prices in other North African and Middle Eastern countries.

To calm the protests, Algeria has cut the cost of sugar and cooking oil.

The fall of Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali on Friday -- the first time in generations that an Arab leader has been toppled by public protests -- sent a sharp signal to the rest of the region, dominated by autocratic regimes.

The protests that brought down Ben Ali erupted after the self-immolation of 26-year-old vegetable seller Mohamed Bouazizi, who set himself on fire on Dec. 17 because police had confiscated his vegetable cart. Bouazizi died weeks later of his burns, becoming a



Algerian set himself on fire to protest unemployment

Algerian dies in self-immolation, echoing Tunisia

Sunday, 16 January 2011



ALGIERS (Reuters)

A man has died after setting himself on fire at a government building in Algeria, state radio reported on Sunday, echoing the self-immolation that triggered the protests that toppled the leader of neighboring Tunisia.

Mohsen Bouterfif doused himself in gasoline and set himself on fire on Thursday after a meeting with the mayor of the small city of

abandon civil society when it is under threat and ensure that our own governments don't either. We should push Western governments to reexamine their ties to repressive regimes. (The US will inevitably pay a price in post-Ben Ali Tunisia for its war-on-terror-inspired alliance with Tunis.) And we should be models of civility worth emulating in the conduct of our own democracy. In this sense whether the Americans heed President Obama's eloquent words in Tucson has implications well beyond our shores.

The Jasmine Revolution may or may not have staying power. (Ask most Ukrainians whether they are happy today with the results of their 2004 Orange Revolution!) But it has underscored the message that under the right circumstances people can indeed determine their own destinies. That ought at least to give pause to autocrats from Beijing to Cairo and put at least a momentary smile on the faces of all those who care about freedom.

But massive Tweeting and consequent street demonstrations in Iran in 2009, coupled though they were with enthusiasm for opposition politician Mir Hossein Mousavi, were not sufficient to rid the country of either its autocratic president or its theocratic state. Moreover, despite widespread protests over recent stolen elections, Alexander Lukashenko remains very much in power in Belarus as does Laurent Gbagbo in Cote d'Ivoire.

The truth is that no one knows for sure what makes for success when it comes to explosions of popular outrage. Before the revolution, Tunisia boasted both a well-educated populace and a small but courageous civil society with wide access to new communication technologies. The addition of economic stress and resentment at the luxuries garnered by the president's family through corruption made for a lethal mix. (How ironic that that corruption was largely revealed through WikiLeaks which, having intended to give the heartburn to the US, one of the most open countries in the world, contributed instead to the downfall of one of the least open.) When the military refused to protected Ben Ali, his fate was sealed. But this combination of conditions is not easily duplicated elsewhere and many of them are not within the control of those who would promote democracy.

So what should we democracy and human rights activists do to encourage positive change in repressive regimes around the world? Like the old Boy Scout slogan, we should "Be Prepared!" We should encourage the widespread availability of social networking tools and training in nonviolent strategies of social change. We should never

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William F. Schulz

President and CEO, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

January 15, 2011

The Jasmine Revolution: One-Time Wonder or Portent of Things Yet to Come?

The overthrow of President Ben Ali of Tunisia is being hailed as a potential precursor to similar revolts against repressive regimes elsewhere in the Arab world. Democracy enthusiasts dream of falling dominos throughout the Middle East comparable to the cascade of apparently impregnable dictatorships in eastern Europe and eventually the Soviet Union between 1989-92.

Certainly some elements of Tunisia's so-called Jasmine Revolution parallel other upheavals. Mohammed Bouazizi, the street vendor who set himself on fire, became a symbol of heroism not unlike the Rev. Laszlo Tokes in Romania whose resistance to Nicolae Ceauseascu's venality inspired thousands to take to the streets in 1989. And the Tunisian protesters, unlike those in Iron Curtain countries, had the benefit of social networking tools like Twitter and Facebook with which to rally supporters.

That changed today with Ben Ali's sudden departure and the disbandment of his government.

A journalist working in the region has compared what is happening in Tunisia to the Czech 'Velvet Revolution' where protests led to the fall of the regime. That led to two new democrat nations, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

It is unknown whether Tunisia's riots will result in meaningful democratic reform but it does serve as a warning to regimes at risk in a bad economy Their young populations who see their own choices as limited while their leaders continue to live in autocratic luxury and ignore their cries for help have little left to lose by standing against them.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, speaking at a meeting in Qatar, warned of the consequences of ignoring the situation.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday bluntly challenged Middle Eastern leaders to open their political systems and economies, warning that "the region's foundations are sinking into the sand."

Clinton, addressing an international meeting in the Persian Gulf state of Qatar, said the region's states need to share more power with civic and volunteer groups to overcome the problems of exploding populations, stagnant economies and declining natural resources.

Unlike Egypt, Tunisia has a growing opposition party that had been hopeful their presidents willingness to enact reforms might keep their country from descending into chaos.

"This is something we have asked for for a long time and it is very good that he has promised not to put himself forward for the election," said Najib Chebbi, who is the founder of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (PDP) in a statement to Reuters. "The president has touched on the heart of the issue, demands for reform. That is very important and I salute that ... Frankly I did not expect that, that he would touch on all these problems. "But what remains is how will this be carried out and I ask that a coalition government be created."

The riots began with a tragic act of self-immolation. A young university graduate, Mohamed Bouazizi, unable to find a job, had set up a vegetable stand to survive. The police took his vegetables and, in what was the final humiliation for Bouazizi, slapped the educated young man in public. His response was to set himself on fire in front of a government building.

There has been similar unrest in Jordan and a long history of problems in Egypt.

The Tunisia protests, combined with the eruption of riots in neighboring Algeria last week and recent unrest in Jordan, are worrying signs for Cairo. Egypt, the Arab world's most populous country, also has a bulging youth population that has a far harder time landing jobs than other segments of society, and a tightly managed political system that has left little room for dissent.

With young populations who have little access to gainful employment, food prices that are expected to continue rising in part to the impact of climate change (Australia's crops have been devastated by floods, Russia's wheat by fire, the U.S. grain supply...), and exposure to information that shows young people the fruits of a better life, the unrest should have been expected. In what seems to be autocratic heads firmly in their own sand, there's been little done outside of Tunisia by the regimes at risk beyond cracking down on their own youth.

protests in Tunisia that began over unemployment, rising food prices and anger at oppression.

The unrest in Tunisia has exploded into a national crisis that serves as a warning to the autocratic regimes throughout the Middle East. The lack of resources has acted upon them as a magnifying lens on the lack of opportunity under these regimes. The paradigm, as a result, is changing. People are not so easily distracted toward foreign enemies when their own government turns on a starving population that cannot. That is what has been happening in Tunisia, where as many as 60 people have died in protests that are growing in their size and determination.

The Prime Minister, Mohammed Ghannouchi, has taken over the government. The president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who had been in power for 23 years, has left the country. Ben Ali had been trying to placate his young population with initiatives, such as opening up YouTube in 2007, but those were minor concessions in the face of increasing despair.

The violent protests grew to symbolize not only anger at rising unemployment and lack of economic opportunities, but also the corruption that pervades the ruling regime and the harsh repression of one of the worst police states in the region.

In his speech to the country, the Tunisian prime minister, Mohamed Ghannouchi, said, "As the president of the republic is unable to exercise his functions for the time being, I have assumed, starting now, the powers of the president."

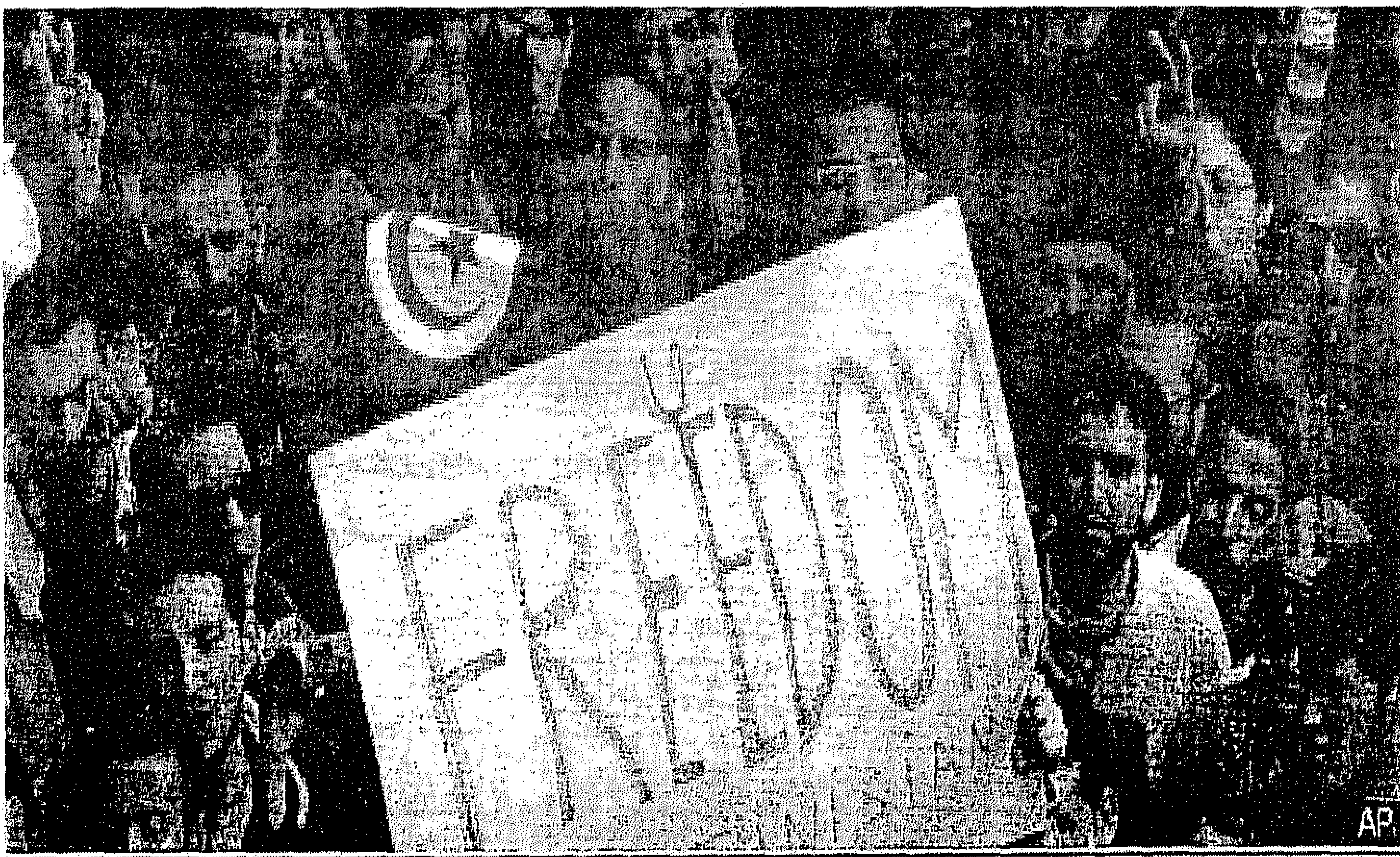
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Tunisia's Riots: A Warning to Regimes in the Middle East



Janet Ritz

Managing editor, the-environmentalist.org



January 14, 2011

If anyone doubts the connection between the economy, the climate and the risk to existing autocratic regimes, they need only look to the

dealing and excess of the president's family. And the protesters relied heavily on social media Web sites like Facebook and Twitter to circulate videos of each demonstration and issue calls for the next one.

As night fell, gangs of security forces armed with machine guns and clubs could be seen chasing down stragglers. Dozens have died in clashes with the police over the last week, and continued gunshots were reported well after curfew on Friday night from several neighborhoods around the capital as sporadic riots continued.

The United States had counted Tunisia under Mr. Ben Ali as an important ally in battling terrorism. But on Friday, President Obama said in a statement that he applauded "the courage and dignity of the Tunisian people."

"The United States stands with the entire international community in bearing witness to this brave and determined struggle for the universal rights," he said, adding, "We will long remember the images of the Tunisian people seeking to make their voices heard."

The antigovernment protests began a month ago when a college-educated street vendor named Mohamed Bouazizi in the small town of Sidi Bouzid burned himself to death in despair at the frustration and joblessness confronting many educated young people here. But the protests he inspired quickly evolved from bread-and-butter issues to demands for an assault on the perceived corruption and self-enrichment of the ruling family.

The protesters, led at first by unemployed college graduates like Mr. Bouazizi and later joined by workers and young professionals, found grist for the complaints in leaked cables from the United States Embassy in Tunisia, released by WikiLeaks, that detailed the self-

Yet by late Friday night, Tunisian Facebook pages previously emblazoned with the revolt's slogan, "Ben Ali, Out," had made way for the name of the interim president. "Ghannouchi Out," they declared.

News of the president's departure followed, by just hours, the biggest battle yet between the protesters and security forces. Emboldened by a last-minute pledge from Mr. Ben Ali to stop shooting demonstrators, as many as 10,000 people poured into the streets. But when they paraded the body of a person said to have been shot elsewhere in the city, the waiting rows of police officers stormed the crowd, filling the streets with a thick cloud of tear gas and hammering fleeing demonstrators with clubs.

In a final bid to placate the protesters, Mr. Ben Ali had already pledged to hold parliamentary elections in six months. Those elections are now expected to include a presidential contest as well. But fair and open elections would be a first for Tunisia. Mr. Ben Ali, a former prime minister who took power in a bloodless coup, was only the second president of the country, which won independence from France in 1956.

On Friday night the capital remained under a tight curfew. Groups of more than two people were forbidden on the streets after 5 p.m., and no one was allowed out after 8 p.m. State news media warned that the police would shoot curfew violators on sight. Tanks and other security forces were deployed around the city, and the airport was shut down.

official Saudi Arabian news agency said he arrived in the country early Saturday.

The fall of Mr. Ben Ali marked the first time that widespread street demonstrations had overthrown an Arab leader. And even before the last clouds of tear gas had drifted away from the capital's cafe-lined Bourguiba Boulevard, people throughout the Arab world had begun debating whether Tunisia's uprising could prove to be a model, threatening other autocratic rulers in the region.

"What happened here is going to affect the whole Arab world," said Zied Mhirsi, a 33-year-old doctor protesting outside the Interior Ministry on Friday. He carried a sign highlighting how he believed Tunisia's protests could embolden the swelling numbers of young people around the Arab world to emulate the so-called Jasmine Revolution.

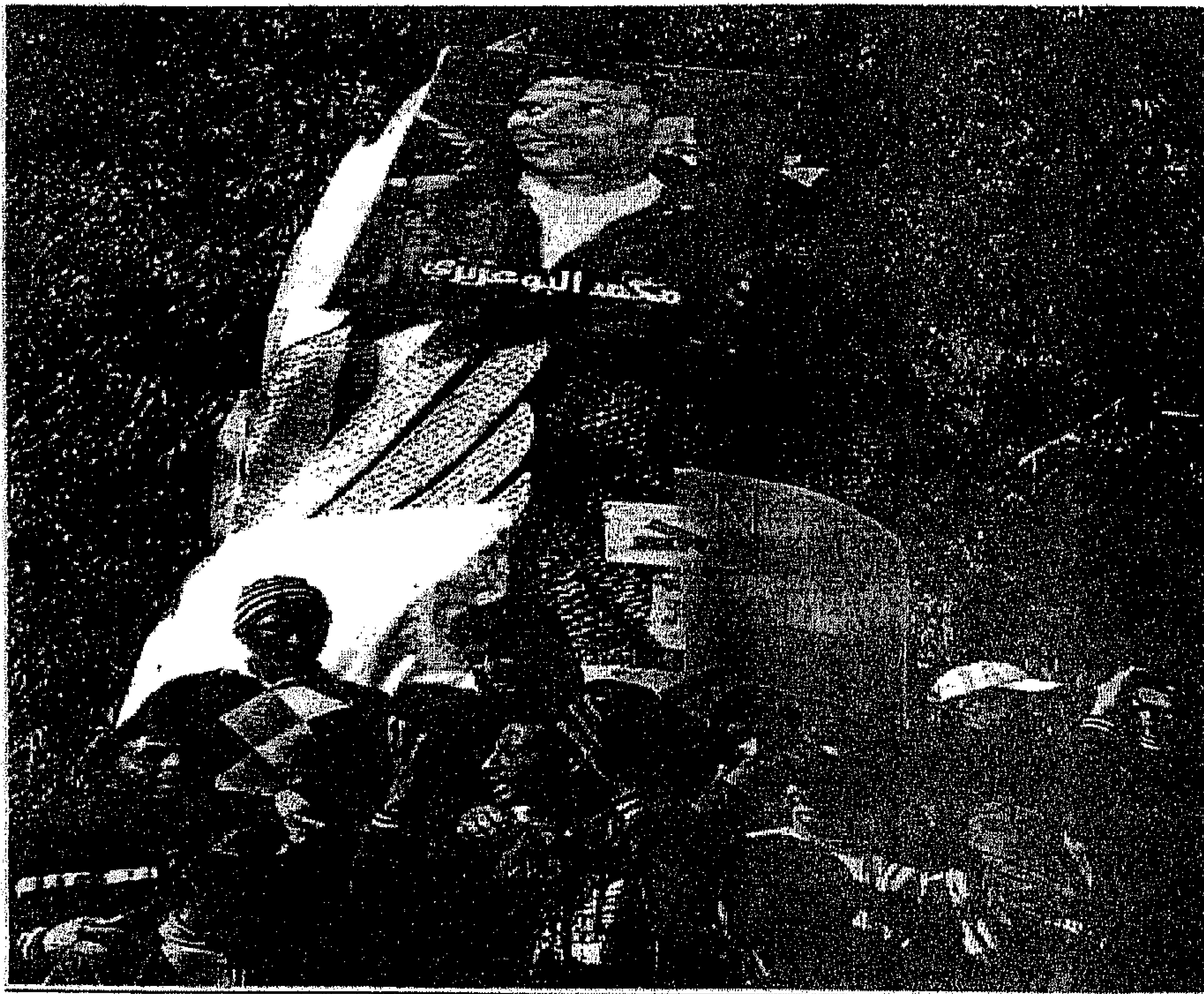
Because the protests came together largely through informal online networks, their success has also raised questions about whether a new opposition movement has formed that could challenge whatever new government takes shape. Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi, a close ally from the president's hometown, announced on state television that he was taking power as interim president. But that step violated the Tunisian Constitution, which provides for a succession by the head of Parliament, something that Mr. Ghannouchi tried to gloss over by describing Mr. Ben Ali as "temporarily" unable to serve.

The New York Times

Published: January 14, 2011

Tunisia Leader Flees and Prime Minister Claims Power

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK



TUNIS — Tunisia's president, Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, fled his country on Friday night, capitulating after a month of mounting protests calling for an end to his 23 years of authoritarian rule. The

The 74-year-old Ben Ali, a former interior minister himself, grabbed power 23 years ago in a bloodless coup and human rights groups in Tunisia and abroad have long criticized the lack of freedoms.

According to Ghannouchi, the president has stressed his wish to place at the forefront "dialogue and peaceful freedom of expression and association and for all parties to be involved in treating the questions of the nation."

Tunisia was the seat of the Carthaginian empire, and in modern times was a French protectorate until independence in 1956. Today it has about 10.4 million people and has seen steady economic growth, but many ordinary young Tunisians can't find jobs and feel they have few prospects for the future.

Ghannouchi also announced the creation of two inquiry commissions to probe "excesses committed during the troubles" and "the question of corruption and faults committed by certain officials," the statement said.

The president made no public appearance Wednesday.

In a statement carried by the state news agency TAP, Ghannouchi did not give figures on how many people would be freed, but said the government would not be releasing protesters whose guilt has been proven.

Kacem kept his job in a government reshuffle last month, but pressure on Tunisia's leadership has mounted as the protests took an especially violent turn."It seems to be a combination of economic and political demonstrations, and the government's reaction, which has been unfortunately leading to the deaths of some of the protestors. So we are not taking sides in it, we just hope there can be a peaceful resolution of it," Clinton said.

The prime minister's reference to excesses may have referred to the handling of rioters in certain towns. The majority of the dead were counted in three days of unrest, from Saturday to Monday, in the central town of Kasserine.

The statement also said the two houses of parliament would be called to an extraordinary session Thursday for an "open debate" on measures announced Monday by Ben Ali that include a promise to create 300,000 jobs over two years, particularly meant to benefit university graduates.

The upheaval has ravaged the nation's reputation as a stable Muslim nation and highlighted its inability to provide opportunities for its young.

The United States, which calls Tunisia a strong ally in the fight against international Islamist terror groups, has expressed concern.

"We are worried, in general, about the unrest and the instability, and what seems to be the underlying concerns of the people who are protesting," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in an interview in Dubai with Al Arabiya television, according to a transcript provided by the State Department.

There has been no indication that militant Islamists, whom Ben Ali has consistently claimed threaten the nation, have had a role in the riots. But Denmark's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that there's a risk of terror attacks against Western targets in Tunisia and said travelers should also avoid areas with demonstrations.

Germany's government issued a statement warning about the "danger of kidnapping and attacks" in Tunisia.

Spain issued a travel warning urging its citizens to avoid the internal part of Tunisia and to be careful in tourist areas along the coast.

Tunisia's Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi announced the firing of Interior Minister Rafik Belhaj Kacem, and said that most prisoners arrested during the riots are being freed. He said official Ahmed Friaa would replace Kacem.

After more than three weeks of protests outside Tunis, hundreds of protesters infuriated by unemployment and corruption emerged from a souk, or market, in the capital and hurled stones at police at a key intersection. Officers responded with volleys of tear gas, driving the protesters to disperse into adjoining streets. Stores in the area were shuttered.

It was not immediately clear whether there were any injuries or arrests. Two army vehicles were posted at the intersection, which is right by the French Embassy. Armored vehicles were also stationed in the Ettadhamoun neighborhood three miles (five kilometers) west of Tunis, which saw clashes the day before.

The new protests show that Tunisians are paying little heed to pledges by the president to subdue rioters or create jobs.

Wednesday's clash erupted soon after the interior minister was fired, a move that intensified a sense of uncertainty and questions about what's next for autocratic President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali -- questions that have never been openly posed during his time in power.

The protests erupted in mid-December in an inland town after a young man tried to kill himself. They then hopscotched around the country, as social networks like Facebook spread word of the unrest, circumventing tight control of the media.

Police have repeatedly shot at demonstrators setting fire to buildings and stoning police. The government says 23 people have died but unions and witnesses put the toll at 46 or higher.

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Tunisia Riots: Unemployment and Corruption Protesters on Lockdown (PHOTOS)

AP/The Huffington Post First Posted: 01-12-11 01:41 PM | Updated: 01-12-11 01:47 PM

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) -- Tunisia's government is imposing a curfew on the capital and surrounding region after weeks of violent riots reached Tunis. **(Scroll down for photos)**

The government said in a statement Wednesday that a curfew will be in place from 8 p.m. through 6 a.m. (1900 GMT through 0500 GMT). Such curfews are highly unusual in this generally stable North African country.

The announcement came after police firing tear gas and protesters throwing stones clashed in the center of the capital Wednesday, bringing the unrest to the government's doorstep for the first time.

Police and protesters clashed in the center of the Tunisian capital Wednesday, bringing unrest to the government's doorstep after nearly a month of deadly protests that pose the most serious challenge to the president's two decades of iron-fisted rule.

European governments warned travelers about going to Tunisia, whose safe, stable image and Mediterranean beaches draw millions of mainly European travelers and make tourism the mainstay of the small, North African nation's economy.

The government has said 23 people have died in the protests around the country during which police repeatedly shot at demonstrators setting fire to buildings and stoning police.

Unions and witnesses say at least 46 have died in the unrest.

Social networks like Facebook have helped spread word of the protests in a country where the media are tightly controlled and little dissent is allowed.

The protests began in towns in the center of the country, far from the Mediterranean beaches popular with European tourists. But they have been spreading, and riots were reported late Tuesday in the Ettadhamoun neighborhood five kilometers (three miles) west of Tunis — the first time the violence has reached so near the capital.

The New York Times

January 11, 2011

Tunisia's Interior Minister Is Fired

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisia's prime minister said Wednesday that the interior minister has been fired after protest violence that has killed at least 23 people and left the country's leadership struggling to keep the country under control.

Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi also announced that most prisoners arrested during nearly a month of riots are being freed. He said the release did not apply to those whose guilt has been proven, without elaborating.

The prime minister announced the appointment of a new interior minister, Ahmed Friaa.

Despair over Tunisia's soaring unemployment and corruption has fueled the protests, which pose the most significant challenge yet to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The 74-year-old leader grabbed power 23 years ago in a bloodless coup.

The riots are believed to have spread in part through social-media Web sites, and the Tunisian government reportedly directed Internet service providers to hack into the accounts of individual users. As the riots mounted over the weekend, the State Department expressed concern about intrusions into the privacy of Tunisian customers of American companies like Facebook, Yahoo and Google.

The United Nations secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, urged restraint and respect for freedom of expression.

Since taking power in a bloodless coup more than two decades ago, President Ben Ali has enforced strict censorship and tolerated little dissent. Although Tunis markets itself as a peaceful tourist haven, it earns dismal marks from international human rights groups.

Official figures put unemployment at about 14 percent, with much higher levels among young people.

Citing criticism from the State Department for its handling of the riots, the Tunisian government summoned the American ambassador to express its "astonishment," Tunisian state television reported.

A State Department spokesman, Philip J. Crowley, described the meeting as "a follow-up discussion" with the Tunisian government. "We, again, affirmed our concerns not only about the ongoing violence, the importance of respecting freedom of expression, but also the importance of the availability of information," Mr. Crowley said.

The riots began about three weeks ago after a 26-year-old man with a college degree, in despair at his dismal prospects, committed suicide by setting himself on fire. He had been trying to sell a container of fruits and vegetables, and the police confiscated his merchandise because he had no permit.

His self-immolation unleashed the pent-up anger of Tunisia's educated and underemployed youth, and soon that of others as well.

On Monday, security forces surrounded a university where hundreds of students were trying to protest, according to Reuters. The rioting showed signs of spreading from provincial towns toward the cities of the Mediterranean coast which are central to the tourist industry, Reuters reported.

The New York Times

Published: January 10, 2011

Amid Rioting, Tunisia Closes Universities

By DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK

CAIRO — The Tunisian government ordered the closing of all schools and universities in the country on Monday until further notice in an attempt to quell escalating riots over poverty and unemployment.

At least 14 people have died in the riots, according to the official Tunisian news agency, which also reported the school closings. Opponents of the government contend that riot police officers have shot and killed many more since the riots broke out three weeks ago.

President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, in a televised address, promised to create more jobs, but also to stamp out any violence. He blamed unspecified enemies abroad for the rioting.

"The events were the work of masked gangs that attacked at night government buildings and even civilians inside their homes in a terrorist act that cannot be overlooked," he said, according to Al Jazeera.

In neighboring Algeria, meanwhile, three people died over four days of rioting, the Interior Ministry there said this weekend. Algerian youths took to streets to protest rising prices of staples like sugar and cooking oil. The Algerian government announced Saturday it was slashing taxes on those products by 41 percent.

Ben Ali has ruled his Muslim nation with an iron fist since taking power in a bloodless coup in 1987, and outbursts of public dissent have been extremely rare.

Last week, U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley urged all sides in Tunisia to show restraint. He said Tunisians should enjoy the right to protest publicly and expressed worries about a crackdown on social media in Tunisia. He also said the U.S. summoned the country's ambassador to express its opinions.

In return, Tunisian Foreign Ministry official Saida Chtioui told Washington's ambassador to Tunis, Gordon Gray, of authorities' "surprise" at the U.S. reaction, TAP said.

Tunisia's government also said authorities do not intervene or ban peaceful demonstrations, but recent protests have become violent.

Until this weekend, only two people had been killed in the weeks of rioting, the government has said.

An Interior Ministry statement said there had been 14 deaths this weekend but did not give the circumstances. However, it invoked "legitimate defense" to explain the police's use of weapons. Ben Ali said officers had been injured, without saying how many.

Opposition leader Ahmed Brahm put the weekend death toll at 25 and said all the victims died from police bullets. He pleaded with authorities to stop firing on protesters.

"Let's save our country while there's still time," Brahm told the AP.

Mediterranean has embarrassed the government, which tolerates little public dissent.

The riots began after a 26-year-old man with a university degree set himself on fire on Dec. 17, after police confiscated his fruits and vegetables for selling them without a permit. The desperate act touched a nerve with educated, unemployed youth nationwide. The young man later died.

The rioting has scarred cities and towns around this small North African country of 10 million people. Unemployment is officially around 14 percent but is believed much higher in rural areas and among youths.

The ministries for education, higher learning and scientific research released a statement through the official TAP news agency on Monday saying that classes and exams will be suspended starting Tuesday until further notice.

The statement said there will be investigations to find "those behind these troubles, and those who pushed innocent students to commit acts of disorder, violence and anarchy."

The president placed blame Monday on "hostile elements" abroad, saying they were directing the unrest from afar. That remark was seen as a reference in part to Tunisian opponents and Islamists in Europe.

"The law will have the last word," Ben Ali said. Among the economic measures he announced was a plan to do away with taxes for business projects that create jobs in rural regions.

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January 10, 2011

Tunisia Riots Kill 14; Shut Down Schools

BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA

TUNIS, Tunisia — Tunisia on Monday temporarily shut down all of its high schools and universities as it tried to stop deadly riots over joblessness and poor prospects for youths. At least 14 people were killed in unrest this weekend.

Tunisia's president went on national television and announced a plan to create 300,000 jobs over two years in the North African nation. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali also blamed rioters for what he called "terrorist acts."

Demonstrators have attacked public buildings and set cars on fire during more than three weeks of unrest, while police have opened fire on rioters several times. Washington has expressed concerns over Tunisia's handling of the situation, and its ambassador was summoned Monday to the Foreign Ministry.

Tunisia's Interior Ministry said 14 people died in unrest this weekend. An opposition figure, however, said that 25 people died from police bullets. The unrest in the popular tourist destination on the

A reporter for the French daily Le Monde was refused entry to Tunisia of Friday, according to the international advocacy group Reporters Without Borders.

The demonstrations began after an unemployed 26-year-old university graduate set himself on fire last month in Sidi Bouzid to protest the police seizure of his vegetable cart. He died of his injuries Tuesday.

condemn what it called "an ongoing crackdown by Tunisian authorities." Scores of protesters have been detained.

Security forces arrested two bloggers and detained 22-year-old rapper Hamada Ben Amor, who became famous in his homeland with the outspoken song "President, Your People Are Dying," the news service Agence France-Presse reported.

A journalist in Tunis, the capital, who requests anonymity for security reasons, said in an e-mail interview that clashes continued Friday in the northern farming town of Siliana between security forces and residents. Banks and some government buildings there had been set on fire, the journalist said.

Videos purportedly shot at the demonstrations have surfaced on the Internet. One clip from the town of Sidi Bouzid shows youths clashing with police in the streets as gunshots rattle and plumes of black smoke billow into the air. Others show crowds angrily demonstrating.

Protesters also rioted in the town of Makthar, about 90 miles southwest of Tunis, the journalist said.

Censors appeared to be putting substantial effort into stopping the information flow about the unrest. Pages on Facebook criticizing the government reportedly have been taken down, and some bloggers and journalists covering the protests complain that their accounts on social networking sites have been hacked.

Los Angeles Times

January 08, 2011

Rioting spreads across Tunisia; unrest also reported in Algeria

Tunisian youths clash with police in several cities as teachers and lawyers go on strike over high unemployment and food prices. Similar protests are also seen in Algeria.

By Alexandra Sandels, Los Angeles Times

Reporting from Beirut — Protests and strikes driven by unemployment and high food prices continued to sweep across the tightly controlled North African nation of Tunisia on Friday amid police attempts to clamp down on the unrest.

Reports also trickled out about similar unrest in neighboring Algeria, where rioting youths this week burned shops in the capital and clashed with police in several cities.

At the root of the unrest in Tunisia is discontent with the autocratic government's management of the economy. Thousands of lawyers went on strike Thursday. News reports said Friday that teachers had joined the strikes.

At least two people have been killed in the demonstrations, according to rights group Amnesty International, prompting the organization to

Rising Action

A security source told Reuters the device used in the latest blast had similarities to bombs used in the 2009 attacks, saying: "The bomb used in the Alexandria attack is similar to a large extent to the bombs that exploded in 2009 near a Cairo church and in al-Hussein."

"This indicates there may be a link between the bombers."
Khalil Anani, a political analyst at Britain's Durham University, said that he believed momentum gained by al-Qaeda-inspired militants could be attributed to the Government's sidelining of moderate Islamist voices like the Muslim Brotherhood

say that investigation results show he was a university graduate with no permanent job, who left his family home about one year ago.

They added that investigations are still undergoing in order to confirm these findings and to track down the suspect's family members for further interrogations.

The sources said that bomb particles from the scene of the attack on the Alexandria church indicate the devise was similar to those used in two blasts in 2009.

Analysts say the possible connection could indicate the country's al-Qaeda the body, the bomber is suspected to be from Egypt's Delta region, north of Cairo. Officials say that investigation results show he was a university graduate with no permanent job, who left his family home about one year ago.

They added that investigations are still undergoing in order to confirm these findings and to track down the suspect's family members for further interrogations.

The sources said that bomb particles from the scene of the attack on the Alexandria church indicate the devise was similar to those used in two blasts in 2009.

Analysts say the possible connection could indicate the country's al-Qaeda-inspired militants are winning recruits.

In Moqattam, an impoverished Cairo district with a large Coptic population, residents said the threat of further attacks would not deter them from going to church.
"With al-Qaeda's threats, we anticipate further attacks but we are not afraid. God protects us," said Adel al-Wazir.

Meanwhile, several other countries, including the US, Canada, France, Germany and The Netherlands stepped
up security around Coptic Christian churches in response to the threat.

At the Saint Mark's Coptic Church in Montreal, Robert Mishriky, a businessman and church official, said a private
security firm was hired for Christmas Eve Mass for the first time.

Some 250,000 Christian Copts live in Canada, which has 14 Coptic churches.

The fear of violence reached even to Staten Island, New York City, where police were stationed outside the Coptic Orthodox Church of Archangel Michael & St. Mina in Great Kills.
In contrast to previous statements regarding Alexandria bomber's background, investigators suspect the attacker originally came from the Delta, north of Cairo.

Authorities have announced that a body found at the scene of the Two Saints Church attack is suspected to be that of the suicide bomber.

According to DNA tests performed on the body, the bomber is suspected to be from Egypt's Delta region, north of Cairo. Officials

church gates across Egypt, police and church staff checked the IDs of those entering the services — and their wrists, where many Egyptian Christians bear the tattoo of a cross.

Hundreds of officers – outfitted in helmets with visors, body armour and carrying shields and night sticks – lined the streets, leaving a path for demonstrators to pass.

In Alexandria, meanwhile, Copts marked a somber Christmas as hundreds of worshippers gathered on Thursday at the Two Saints Church, the site of Saturday's bombing, guarded by dozens of police and anti-riot vehicles.

Maureen, 27, dressed in black, told AFP: "To survive, we Copts must confront our fear and pain. We have to be stronger than the terrorists. That's why I am coming to Mass".

Maher, 50, arrived for the Mass with his wife and two daughters.

"Our sorrow is great, but we feel stronger because of the support of our Muslim compatriots," he said.

Others converged on Saint Mark's Cathedral in Cairo, where the head of the Coptic Church, Pope Shenouda III, conducted the service, attended by several Government ministers and President Hosni Mubarak's two sons Alaa and Gamal.

The Egyptian Gazette Saturday, January 8, 2011

Muslims show solidarity with Copts
Alex bomber could be from Delta – police

EGYPT'S Muslims attended Christmas services yesterday in a show of solidarity with their Coptic brothers and sisters after a bombing that killed 23 congregants in the coastal city of Alexandria last Saturday.

Coptic Christians celebrate Christmas Day according to the Julian calendar, and observed it yesterday this year.

Around two dozen Muslims held a solidarity gathering in a street away from the Coptic Cathedral in the suburb of Abbasyia, Cairo early yesterday. They held signs reading "No to Terrorism, Yes to Citizenship" and "Long Live the Cross and the Crescent".

Security was tight around churches after the blast on New Year's Day outside the Church of the Two Saints in Alexandria.

Security officials said at least 70,000 officers and conscripts had been deployed across the country to secure churches as Copts, who account for 10 per cent of Egypt's 82 million population, attended Christmas Eve Mass.

Congregants were forced to empty their pockets before the start of the service as part of security measures set up after the bombing. At

"The man in the picture is unknown and authorities are trying to confirm his identity," Mahmoud said.

The interior ministry used forensic technology to recreate the face of the suspected suicide bomber.

About 9 percent of Egypt's 80 million residents are Coptic Christians. Coptic Christians base their theology on the teachings of the Apostle Mark, who introduced Christianity to Egypt, according to St. Takla Church in Alexandria, the capital of Coptic Christianity.

CNN-Middle East Fri Jan 7, 2011

Egypt's Muslims support Coptic Christians on religious holiday

Egyptian Muslims attended Christmas services Friday in a show of solidarity with Coptic Christians days after a bombing killed 23 congregants in the country's north.

Coptic Christians celebrate Christmas Day according to the Julian calendar, and observed it on Friday this year.

Security was tight around churches after the blast on New Year's Day outside the Church of the Two Saints in Alexandria.

Congregants were forced to empty their pockets before the start of the service as part of security measures set up after the bombing.

"Police plan a large-scale security operation for tonight to protect Egypt's Coptic Christians and their churches." Col. Alla Mahmoud of the interior ministry said Thursday.

Protests have broken out in Christian areas of Egypt every night since the car bombing outside the Church of the Two Saints in Alexandria.

Hundreds of officers -- outfitted in helmets with visors, body armor and carrying shields and night sticks -- lined the streets, leaving a path for demonstrators to pass.

Egyptian authorities have released a sketch of a man they think is responsible for the attack.

The Egyptian Gazette Friday, January 7, 2011

Muslim clerics call for unity in Friday sermons

CAIRO- Top Muslim clerics used their Friday sermons to discuss tolerance and call on Christians and Muslims to unite against terrorism, as they condemned a deadly bombing outside a Coptic church in Egypt last week.

Coptic Christians around the world are celebrating their Christmas Day on Friday.

Egypt's Grand Mufti, Ali Gomaa - the second highest religious figure in the country - talked about the story of the birth of Christ and the co-existence between Islam and Christianity in his sermon.

"Some people tried to disturb our joy with Christmas by this heinous crime that has caused grief across the country," Gomaa told thousands gathered at a Cairo mosque.

"Such crimes, which do not differentiate between Muslim and Christian or between a man and a woman, were rejected by the prophet (Mohamed)."

He also asked people to ask God to 'spare us disorder and chaos' in their prayers.

The Doha-based Sheikh Youssef al-Qaradawi, meanwhile, stressed that 'those behind the blast have harmed Islam, whether they were Muslims or not.'

The country has been on high alert ever since a suspected suicide bomber detonated a nail-packed bomb at the church early on New Year's day, killing 23 people and injuring up to 100 in Alexandria.

The blast sparked daily protests throughout the country, with a number of both Muslim and Christian demonstrators injured in clashes with police and others arrested.

The Egyptian Gazette Friday, January 7, 2011

Christians celebrate Coptic Christmas

CAIRO - Egypt's Christians celebrated the Coptic Christmas amid tight security on Friday, a week after a deadly bombing targeted one of their churches in the northern city of Alexandria.

Heightened security measures remained in place on Friday for Coptic Christmas Day. Plainclothes security were also spread in the streets.

Streets were cordoned off Thursday afternoon with state security cars and officers around churches.

'Before I congratulate you for Christmas, I want to mourn our children in Alexandria and in many countries where they have been martyred; innocents who haven't done anything,' Pope Shenouda III, told the Christmas Eve mass at Cairo's main cathedral.

In the Church of the Saints, where the attack took place last Saturday, Thursday's evening mass was filled by grief. Women were wearing black, while men wore badges that read 'Pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you.'

'Believe that everything leads to goodness for those who love God. What happened was a test for our faith,' the priest told churchgoers in Alexandria, Egypt's second largest city.

and one this year, who supposedly were stopped from converting to Islam and are now being hidden by the Coptic Orthodox Church.

The result is that Christians have lost faith in the wider society and have turned increasingly to their church for protection, according to Cornelis Hulsman, who runs the Cairo-based Arab West Foundation for promoting intercultural dialogue.

"Christians tend to rally in support of their church. They do so in staunchly supportive church positions, withdrawing into a virtual ghetto. The result is that contact with Muslims is greatly reduced," wrote Hulsman in an article following Saturday's attack.

"In such a climate, it is easy to hurl general accusations at Muslims in general, thus adding to the polarization of Egyptian society," he concluded. –Maggie Michael contributed to this report.

preaches non-acceptance of Christians," he told The Associated Press.

In an editorial in the English-language online version of the state-owned Al-Ahram newspaper, editor Hani Shukrallah slammed the government for trying to appease Islamist sentiment and warned against rising anti-Christian sentiment among Muslims.

"I accuse the millions of supposedly moderate Muslims among us — those who've been growing more and more prejudiced, inclusive and narrow minded with every passing year," he wrote Saturday.

"I have heard you speak, in your offices, in your clubs, at your dinner parties: 'The Copts must be taught a lesson. The Copts are growing more arrogant. The Copts are holding secret conversions of Muslims.'"

Two other points of conflict that come up repeatedly in Egypt's Muslim-Christian relations are church building and the issue of conversion.

Christians have to apply to local security authorities to build their churches — or even conduct renovations — in a lengthy process that only ends with the approval by the president or a governor. The result is a tendency to build illegally which has been used as an excuse by extremists for mob violence against the Christians.

Conversions are also highly sensitive and rumors of women converting to Islam and then being forced to convert back to Christianity have sparked riots by both religious groups.

Al-Qaeda in Iraq justified its assaults on Christians there recently in light of two cases of Egyptian women, one in 2004

In a two-year study conducted by his organization, the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, he documented 52 anti-Christian incidents between 2008 and 2010 and in none of them were the perpetrators punished. Instead security forces arbitrarily arrested a few people.

"Security then forces both sides to accept reconciliation at the expense of justice," he said, which gives the perpetrators a sense of impunity. "It's an invitation for these events to recur and the victims are left feeling victimized twice, first by those who did it and second by the government."

Egypt's government maintains Muslims and Christians are treated equally in the country and after these kinds of sectarian incidents loudly affirms its commitment to national unity.

But Christians have long complained that they are discriminated against in getting jobs in the government, universities — even the private sector. They also point to rising Muslim conservativism that they say affects government officials' dealings with Christians.

Youssef Sidhom, a prominent Coptic intellectual and editor of the weekly Watani newspaper, said that in Egyptian society there has been growing antipathy to coexisting with Christians, undermining such official pronouncements.

"The infiltration of political Islam into our education, our schools, into the hearts and minds of school teachers and into our school books and is extremely dangerous because it produces innocent children who are infected by the version of Islam that does not accept the other and

prevention measure against swine flu, devastating the livelihoods of Cairo's large community of Christian garbage collectors, who raised the animals to dispose of organic waste. The Christians saw it as an expression of Muslim disgust at pigs thinly disguised as a health concern.

After a suicide bomber attacked worshippers in the northern city of Alexandria as they filed out of a midnight Mass at the Saints Church on Saturday, Christian rage exploded on the streets in riots and clashes with police. Protesters also attacked Muslim passers-by and a nearby mosque in an indication of the alienation they feel from the country's majority Muslims.

The protests Saturday and Sunday had an unprecedented edge of frustration: A common theme among protesters was that Christians would no longer be silent over their complaints. Security forces have turned out in force, but appear to be showing restraint, apparently to avoid further enflaming tensions.

"You want me to leave Egypt. I will not leave Egypt. Egypt is Coptic and will remain Coptic," one woman in her mid-40s, wrapped in a white sheet stained with blood from the victims, shouted Saturday in front of the Saints Church. "I have seen discrimination all my life. In college, at work. I am not going to take it any longer. Enough."

Christian anger, says rights activist Hossam Bahgat, stems in large part because they feel attacks against them can be carried out with impunity, something borne out by evidence of past incidents, especially in Egypt's impoverished hinterlands.

government officials met with Pope Shenouda III.

Protesters threw bottles and stones at riot police outside the cathedral, injuring 45 policemen, security officials said. Elsewhere, demonstrators threw stones at cars on two main highways, and hundreds marched in other parts of the capital, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.

On Monday, Shenouda spoke on state television and urged the government to address Coptic grievances over what they perceive as unjust laws and restrictions on the community — a rare criticism from the elderly church father.

"The state also has a duty. It must see to the problems of the Copts and try to resolve them," he said. "If there are laws that is an unjust to some, the state should correct many laws."

In the last couple years in particular, the country's Coptic Christian minority, which makes up 10 percent of the country's 80 million, has felt under siege following a string of incidents.

In January a year ago, six Christians and a Muslim guard were killed in a drive-by shooting on Coptic Christmas Eve in southern Egypt. Then in November, Christians rioted after government forces violently stopped the construction of a church near Cairo in a long-running dispute over restrictions on building Christian houses of worship. Two people died at the hands of security in the rare instance of Christian unrest in the capital.

In 2009, the government ordered the destruction of a quarter-million pigs as a dubious

The Daily News Egypt **Friday, January 7th 2011**

Bombing opens vein of Christian anger in Egypt



About 200 Coptic Christians, mostly youths, stage a noisy protest at night near the bombed church, before being dispersed by riot police firing tear gas in Alexandria, Egypt Sunday, Jan. 2. (AP Photo/Ben Curtis)

By Paul Schemm / Associated Press **January 5, 2011, 11:08 pm**

CAIRO: The New Year's Day suicide bombing of a church that killed 21 people has opened up a vein of fury among Egypt's Christians, built up over years of what they call government failure to address persistent discrimination and violence against their community.

Christian protests spread to Cairo from the northern city of Alexandria where the attack took place. Late Sunday, riots erupted outside the cathedral-headquarters of the Coptic Church after the country's top Muslim religious figures and

French Foreign Minister Michele Alliot-Marie on Tuesday called on Europe to come up with a coordinated response to attacks on the Middle East's Christians, including asylum but also ways for people "to stay in their homes".

The Egyptian minister, visiting Morocco as part of a regional tour, said investigations were still under way to find out who was responsible for the New Year's Day attack, which also wounded over 90 people.

The Daily News Egypt Friday, January 7th 2011

Aboul Gheit rules out foreign protection after church attack

By AFP

RABAT: The protection of places of worship in Egypt is the responsibility of the government, an Egyptian minister said Wednesday, ruling out foreign security for Coptic Christians attacked this week.

A New Year's Day attack on a Copt church in Egypt that killed 23 people has raised alarm about the safety of Christians in the Middle East with calls for Europe to come up with a coordinated response.

"We will not allow any foreign party to protect the Copts in Egypt because that would infringe on the exclusive responsibility of our government," Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said during a visit to Morocco.

Egypt is on high alert Monday ahead of the Coptic Christmas on Jan. 7.

"The places of worship in Europe, the churches as well as the mosques, are also concerned about the question of protection," the minister said at a press conference with his Moroccan counterpart, Taieb Fassi Fihri.

Almasry Alyoum **Thu, 06/01/2011**

Egypt FM: Protecting Copts is exclusively the state's responsibility

"The protection of Egyptian Copts is exclusivily the state's responsibility," said Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit at a press conference in Rabat on Wednesday.

"The Egyptian church is independent and capable of defending itself," he said, adding that the church "rejects outside interference."

Aboul Gheit went on to say that the New Years Eve church bombing in Alexandria is still under investigation. He emphasized that although the nation as a whole--and not only Coptic Christians--was infuriated by the attack, churches in Egypt have continued to conduct their religious activities without interruption.
Following the church attack, Vatican's Pope Benedict XVI urged world leaders to defend Christians and Copts. The statement was quickly criticized by Al-Azhar's Grand Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb who considered the statements "an unacceptable interference in Egypt's affairs."

All those investigated said they were surprised by the explosion and what it caused to people, cars and neighboring buildings, the statement mentioned.

Mahmoud canceled a press conference originally scheduled for Thursday morning to review results of investigations.

Yasser Refaiey, Attorney General of the Alexandria Appeals Prosecution, said the human head found at the crime scene has not yet been identified.

The bombing of an Alexandria church on New Year's Eve left 23 dead and scores of others injured.

Almasry Alyoum **Thu. 06/01/2011**

General prosecutor: No evidence on how church was bombed



Arabic Edition

Investigations into the Alexandria bombing have not yet revealed the method of the crime or its perpetrator.

General prosecutor Abdel Meguid Mahmoud said on Thursday that after testimonies were taken from eyewitnesses, it was revealed that none of them had information on how the attack was perpetrated or who perpetrated it.

Armia confirmed during an interview on the Egyptian state television talk show "Masr El-Naharda" that people should not believe everything that is said.

"We cannot let down the hands [of cooperation extended by] our Muslim brothers and sisters, who share with us the pain while they [confirm] that this attack was against all Egyptians," he added.

Many Egyptian Christians say they fear a repeat attack on their community on Coptic Christmas Eve Thursday and authorities are planning to deploy heavy security around churches to protect them.

A Facebook group that attracted 38,000 people is urging Christians to defy fears and go to church on Christmas Eve. However, many Christian families voiced deep fears of another attack. *–Additional reporting by AP*

The Daily News Egypt January 5, 2011

Alex church declares official state of mourning over bombing victims

By Essam Fadl /Special to Daily News Egypt January 5, 2011

CAIRO: The Coptic Orthodox Patriarchy in Alexandria declared an official state of mourning on Wednesday for the victims of the New Year's Eve church bombing, with no celebrations or guest welcoming during the Christmas services.

The Orthodox Church issued a statement asking Copts to be wise so that the Holy Synod's efforts to overcome the aftermath of the attack on the Al-Qeddesine (Church of the Two Saints), will successfully come to fruition.

"The happiness of the Christmas Eve celebrations was dissipated by a vicious criminal attack targeting Al-Qeddesine Church in Sidi Beshr in Alexandria, killing many Copts and spreading panic between Christians whose only fault was praying in celebration of New Year's Eve," the statement read.

"Evil filled the hearts of those who committed this crime, [which] did not have mercy on a child, a woman, or an old man," it added.

Meanwhile, Bishop Armia, the secretary of Pope Shenouda III, denied rumors spread by the media that the church will not welcome any Muslim delegations during Christmas celebrations on Thursday night.

Egyptians, would reinforce Egypt's deeply felt sense of nationhood, which has traditionally trumped identification by tribe or religion.

Protesters also carried signs with slogans like, "Egyptians are one people."

Egyptian authorities seemed uncertain at every level of how to contain the civil unrest unleashed by the bombing, outside Saints Church in Alexandria. They focused on the forensics, identifying 18 of the victims - 10 women and eight men - and were examining a decapitated head thought to be that of a suicide bomber. The authorities also said they had detained suspects they believed could lead them to those responsible for the bombing.

By nightfall, church officials announced that every church in the country - including Saints Church - would go ahead and hold a Coptic Christmas Mass on Thursday night, but that holiday celebrations would be canceled, according to an official Egyptian news service.

Outside of Shoubra, the nation remained tense, with fears that the conflict could lead to wider civil unrest between Muslims and Christians. Rumors spread throughout Cairo that Christians pelted Muslim religious leaders with rocks when they went to offer condolences to church officials. With tempers heating up, police forces tightened security.

But many Egyptians said that the state's oppressive security apparatus was the cause of much of the trouble. "The government is the reason this happened," said a demonstrator, Mamdouh Mikheil. "They are the terrorists who attack us everyday."

It was not all dire, however. There was a glimmer of hope, some observers said, that this attack, so lethal and abhorrent to so many

The San Francisco Chronicle: Tuesday, January 4, 2011

Egypt riots break out over church blast

Liam Stack, Michael Slackman,

Cairo --

Thousands of rioters broke through police lines, pelting officers with rocks and bottles and beating them with makeshift wooden crosses in a third day of unrest set off by a bomb blast outside a church after a New Year's Mass, which killed 21 people and wounded about 100.

The fighting broke out late Monday in the densely packed neighborhood of Shoubra, home to many of Cairo's Christians, when a crowd of hundreds of protesters suddenly swelled into the thousands and surged through the winding streets.

Eventually, the throng - chanting "Where were you when they attacked Alex?" and "Oh Mubarak, you villain, Coptic blood is not cheap," referring to President Hosni Mubarak - began battling with the police, who dropped their batons and shields to throw rocks and bottles back at the protesters.

It was the second time in two nights that the police in Cairo, outnumbered and overwhelmed by protesters, broke ranks and attacked the crowd. Even before the outbreak Monday night, at least 39 riot police officers, including four high-ranking officers, had been injured trying to contain the protests.

But on Sunday, security officials said police are looking at the possibility that homegrown Islamic extremists were behind it, and perhaps were inspired by al-Qaida though not directly under foreign command.

Investigators were also examining lists of air passengers who arrived recently in Egypt from Iraq because al-Qaida in Iraq threatened Christians in both countries. They said they are looking for any evidence of an al-Qaida financier or organizer who may have visited Egypt to recruit the bomber and his support team from local militants.

Investigators were also examining two heads found at the site on suspicion that at least one was the bomber's, state news agency MENA reported. The crime lab investigation found the explosives used were locally made and were filled with nails and ball bearings to maximize the number of casualties.

THE JERUSALEM POST
Israel's best-selling English daily and most-read English website

Mon Jan 3, 2011

Egyptian lawyers blame Israel for church bombing

By JPOST.COM STAFF AND ASSOCIATED PRESS

Counselors tell rally attack was Mossad reaction to uncovered spy ring; Egyptian authorities point towards al-Qaida involvement.

A coalition of Egyptian lawyers accused Israel of being behind an terror attack in Alexandria that killed 22 members of the Christian Copt sect attending midnight mass on New Year's eve, Army Radio reported Monday.

"The Mossad carried out the the operation in a natural reaction to the latest uncovering of an Israeli espionage network," the lawyers accused at a rally in memory of the victims, organized by the Egyptian Bar Association, according to the report

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack on Coptic Christians leaving a midnight Mass about a half hour into the new year Saturday, the worst attack on Egyptian Christians in a decade. In the immediate aftermath, President Hosni Mubarak blamed foreigners and the Alexandria governor accused al-Qaida, pointing to threats against Christians by the terror network's branch in Iraq.

* Coptic is the modern term for Egyptian Christians. The Christian community, mainly Orthodox Copts, make up about 10 per cent of Egypt's mainly Muslim population of nearly 80 million people. It is based on the teachings of Saint Mark who brought Christianity to Egypt during the time of Emperor Nero in the 1st-century.

Outside of Egypt, there are roughly four million Copts under the leadership of Pope Shenouda III, the head of the Coptic Church. As a minority in Egypt, they have suffered considerable sectarian violence in the last 40 years. Human rights groups have noted an even greater amount of religious intolerance in recent years.

worship in response to the threats, but as Alexandria mourns, it appears it was not enough.

Christians, predominantly of the Coptic Orthodox faith, make up about 10 per cent of Egypt's 80 million. "I don't have a lot to say, we have to get our rights back. The police are preventing us from entering the church. This is unjust, discriminatory government and Christians in Egypt have never been more oppressed than now," said Hani Surial, one of the demonstrators at the church. There were other protests in Cairo and Assiut in southern Egypt.

In Egypt, sectarian tension is always at a simmer, but the bombing is the worst attack on its Christian minority in over a decade. It came almost a year after six Christians leaving Orthodox Christmas Mass in a town in southern Egypt were killed in a drive-by shooting. In November, two people died in a riot in Cairo over the construction of a church.

"Attacks on worshippers in churches are a relatively new phenomenon in Egypt. Most previous attacks involving church buildings focused on the buildings themselves, not people," wrote Cornelis Hulsman, chief editor of the Arab West report, an electronic magazine that chronicles instances of sectarian violence in Egypt. According to the Arab West report this is the fourth such attack on Christians since 1997 and the most fatal.

An embattled community

questioned yesterday, a security source told Reuters. In the immediate aftermath of the attack, the Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, called the perpetrators "foreign agents" and vowed to track them down.

"This act of terrorism shook the country's conscience, shocked our feelings and hurt the hearts of Muslim and Coptic Egyptians," Mr Mubarak said in his address. "The blood of their martyrs in the land of Alexandria mixed to tell us all that all Egypt is the target and that blind terrorism does not differentiate between a Copt and a Muslim."

Street protests broke out for the second day since the attack in the narrow alleys outside the blocked church at the centre of the attack.

The demonstration yesterday was less serious than on Saturday when an enraged mob clashed with police and broke into a nearby mosque, throwing books, stones and bottles. Police responded by firing tear gas on the protesters.

A group of about 40 Christians yesterday chanted anti-government and religious slogans after complaining that they were not allowed into to the church. Many expressed dissatisfaction with the Egyptian government for failing to protect the country's largest religious minority.

Al-Qa'ida in Iraq announced in November that Christians in Egypt would be targeted until two priests' wives who were allegedly detained in monasteries after attempting to convert to Islam were freed. The Egyptian government beefed up security around Christian places of

UK-The Independent Monday, 3 January 2011

Egyptian Christians protest after bomb attack at church kills 21

By Sarah A Topol in Alexandria

Christians in Egypt staged protests in three cities yesterday to protest against the government's failure to protect them after a bombing blamed on Islamic militants that killed 21 people as worshippers left a church service 30 minutes into the new year.

Security forces maintained a heavy security presence around the Saints Church in the northern port city of Alexandria where morning Mass was held amid the debris of the blast and bloodstained walls

Hundreds of black-clad riot police and dozens of security forces' personnel carriers later cordoned off the street, preventing mourners from entering while emotions ran high. "I want to know those who killed these people in there, why did they do it? God created life, who are men to take it?" wailed Aida Scond, a Coptic Christian woman outside the barricades. "Who do they think they are?"

Pope Benedict XVI joined Egypt's leading religious leaders in condemning the attack. He called the bombing a "vile gesture" that "offends God and all humanity".

No group has admitted responsibility for the attack, but security officials said police were looking at the possibility that Islamic hardliners in Alexandria were behind it. Seven people were being

"It was clear from the beginning that the ruling party intended to sweep the polls whatever the costs," he says.

Sherdi, a journalist and the Wafd's media spokesman, in Port Said; Mohamed Abdel-Alim Dawoud, a journalist, in Kafr Al-Sheikh's district of Fiwa; and Roman Catholic business tycoon Rami Lakah, in north Cairo's district of Shubra. The Wafd said yesterday that it would withdraw from the race to protest flagrant rigging.

A lot of high-profile independent candidates lost to the NDP. Prominent among them is Gamila Ismail, a TV presenter and the ex-wife of political activist Ayman Nour. Just 14 independents will compete in the second round.

The outlawed Muslim Brotherhood received a deafening blow. Its 130 candidates in the first round failed to win a single seat. The complete defeat of the Muslim Brotherhood took many by surprise. The Brotherhood charges that the vote was rigged in favour of NDP candidates. The group's supreme guide, Mohamed Badie, told a press conference on Tuesday that "the Brotherhood expected that there would be a lot of fraud in the election, but it did not expect it to be on such a scale".

NDP officials flatly deny charges of fraud.

Al-Ahram analyst Amr El-Shobaki says, "the fact that most of the Wafd and Brotherhood's leading figures lost in the first round makes it impossible for the parties to continue." But the withdrawal of the Wafd and Brotherhood, he argues, will be ineffective in placing pressure on the NDP.

winning a seat. The candidates of 12 low-key political parties failed to win a single seat.

Topping the list of leftist and Nasserist opposition losers are Mustafa Bakri, the editor of the weekly newspaper *Al-Osbou* ; Hamdeen Sabahi, the founder of Karama (dignity) Party; Gamal Zahran, a Karama Party member and professor of political science at Suez Canal University; and El-Badri Farghali, a veteran member of the Tagammu.

Six Tagammu candidates have made it to the second round. Most prominent are Diaa Rashwan, an*Al-Ahram* journalist and prominent analyst of Islamist movements, in the Upper Egypt governorate of Qena and Mohamed Abdel-Aziz Shaaban, a veteran Tagammu MP, in east Cairo's district of Hadayeq Al-Qubba.

The failure of the Nasserist Party's 44 candidates to win a single seat surprised many, though the party has had no parliamentary representative since 2005.

Of the Wafd's 222 candidates just two won, including Safir Nour, a former ambassador, in Giza governorate's district of Doqqi. A number of high-profile Wafd candidates failed at the polls, foremost among them Mounir Fakhri Abdel-Nour, the Wafd's secretary-general, Taher Abu Zeid, a former national football player and film actress Samira Ahmed. Some Wafd candidates have made it to the second round. They include Fouad Badrawi, the Wafd's deputy chairman, in Daqahliya governorate's district of Nabarouh; Mustafa

NDP businessmen who made it to the assembly in the first round include Ahmed Ezz, an iron steel magnate and NDP secretary for organisational affairs; Mohamed Abul-Enein, an industrialist, a member of the NDP's secretariat-general and chairman of parliament's Industry Committee; and Tarek Talaat Mustafa, chairman of parliament's Housing Committee and brother of construction magnate Hisham Talaat Mustafa who is currently facing trial on murder charges.

A number of NDP female candidates competing for the 64 seats reserved for women have also won. Most prominent are Zeinab Radwan, deputy chair of the People's Assembly; Madiha Khattab, chair of the NDP's secretariat for family and population affairs; professor of medicine Moemena Kamel and Hayat Abdoun, a TV presenter.

Several high-profile candidates, however, lost in the first round. Among these are three chairmen of committees in the outgoing assembly: Mustafa El-Said of the Economic Affairs Committee and a former economy minister; Sherif Omar of the Health Committee and Farouk Taha, chairman of the National Defence and Security Committee.

From the left only the Tagammu won, and then only a single seat. Two liberal-oriented parties, the Wafd and Ghad, won three seats between them, two for the Wafd and one for the Ghad. Another low-profile party -- the Social Justice Party -- surprised commentators by

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Issue No. 1025

Sweeping the polls

The ruling NDP won more than 40 per cent of seats in the People's Assembly in the first round. The final figure, writes **Gamal Essam El-Din**, will be far more than double

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Opposition parties and the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood suffered their worst defeat in years as the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) swept to victory in the turbulent first round of the People's Assembly elections held on 28 November. The Wafd and Brotherhood announced that they might withdraw from the run-off round, claiming rigging, fraud and thuggery meant the contest could not possibly be fair. The leftist Tagammu Party refused to withdraw, insisting it would contest the second round.

With a record number of candidates, 5,033, competing for 508 seats, and a modest turnout, officially set at 35 per cent of the nation's 41 million voters, the NDP, according to initial estimates, won 209 seats in the first round, or 40 per cent of the total. Those elected include at least 80 NDP members of the outgoing assembly. They represent a mix of new business money and old guard politicos, the latter representatives of the party's veteran wing, the former businessmen close to Gamal Mubarak, the 47-year-old son of President Hosni Mubarak. The list of NDP candidates who emerged victorious includes nine cabinet ministers; Speaker of the People's Assembly Fathi Sorour; and head of President Mubarak's staff Zakaria Azmi.

So was the Brotherhood's election success five years ago dependent on the indirect help of Washington? "Absolutely not," the group's leader Essam El-Erian told *Al-Ahram Weekly*. "The US only serves its own and Zionist interests in the region. It never pressured for democracy."

But didn't US pressure on Cairo help the MB in 2005 at all?

The climate helped "create" a fairer election and "we made gains out of that," he replied.

The question now is why "zero" rather than "five" or "seven"? The latter, after all, would still be a defeat for the group.

Islamic movements expert Amr El-Shobaki of Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies is convinced that the authorities wanted to "make a point" to the group. The group's performance since 2005 has been "arrogant" and "condescending", provoking not only the authorities but also some of the opposition, argues El-Shobaki.

"The Brotherhood adopted a defiant posture which wasn't quite in tune with the overall political set-up."

In other words, he says, they are being "punished".

In the 1995 elections the MB suffered a similar defeat, scoring zero in the first round and winning just one seat in the run-offs.

broadcast on TV stations and circulated widely on the Internet. Footage showed people stuffing ballot boxes, attacking voting stations, opening and destroying ballot boxes, in some cases by setting them on fire. Independent watchdogs say 9 people were killed in connection with the violence that erupted in dozens of constituencies across the nation.

Outgoing Brotherhood MP Mohamed El-Beltagui displayed dozens of charred voting cards during the press conference and posed with them as tens of photographers rushed to snap shots.

The Brotherhood has filed 15 cases in court contesting the legitimacy of the elections, according to the group's lawyer Mukhtar El-Ashri. He said that before polling day Egyptian courts had ordered a halt to the elections in 61 constituencies. On election day itself a number of administrative courts issued verdicts to halt the poll in 17 constituencies. Elections, however, went ahead in all of Egypt's 222 constituencies despite the verdicts.

A total of 128 legal complaints have now been filed before courts by the MB and others, says El-Ashri.

While the group blames the authorities for cheating them of votes its leaders have avoided addressing the contrast between their gains in 2005 -- at a time when Egypt and other Arab regimes were under pressure by the George Bush administration to "democratise" -- and today's zero outcome, in the absence of "foreign" pressure.

Ahram Weekly, "who will compete with the NDP's candidate for the presidency after the Wafd pulled out of parliament?" he added. "This is the biggest blow to the regime in 20 years," said Rashwan.

The Brotherhood fielded 130 candidates in the 28 November elections, including 17 women competing for the women's 64-seat quota. The three main opposition parties together fielded 340.

In an 80-minute long press conference on Tuesday the Brotherhood launched a series of attacks against the authorities, accusing the NDP and the security apparatus of "rigging" the elections. The group's supreme guide, Mohamed Badie, said that the movement

The MB's Tuesday conference was the first official acknowledgement that it scored zero in the first round. Badie joined several MB leaders on the podium to expose the "irregularities" and "violations" carried out by the authorities on election day. Sunday's violations of the law and constitution will "overshadow every election" in the future, said Badie, vowing to take legal action against "all those who contributed to hijacking the people's will" during the elections. Addressing the "Egypian nation", Badie accused the authorities of "falsifying" the "will of the people." He launched a scathing attack of the regime saying its performance was far from responsible and that it "chose to choose its own interests over the nation's interests" thus "compromising [Egypt's] future."

Election day was marred by violence and widespread claims of rigging, evidence of which appeared in several videos that have been

2010-2015 parliament. Both the NDP and the opposition parties denied the accusation but it would not go away, rearing its head once again after Wafd leader El-Sayed El-Badawi purchased the anti-government *Al-Dostour*newspaper and fired its editor Ibrahim Eissa, a staunch critic of President Hosni Mubarak. While officials denied any involvement in El-Badawi's decision to fire Eissa, the saga was viewed as a gift to the regime in return for which Al-Wafd expected a bigger share of parliamentary seats. The leftist Tagammu Party was also accused of siding with the regime against the MB, again in return for parliamentary seats.

With just two seats till now, it seems that the Wafd miscalculated disastrously. The Tagammu did even worse, with one seat. Both parties have 15 candidates in next Sunday's run-offs. In contrast, the MB had 26 candidates competing in the run-offs. But in a surprise announcement on Wednesday both the Wafd and the Brotherhood said they will withdraw from the second round in protest of the wide-scale "rigging" and "blatant" irregularities that preceded and marred election day.

The opposition constituted 25 per cent of the outgoing parliament, 20 per cent of which comprised Brotherhood MPs. After sweeping almost 95 per cent of round one, the NDP is expected to form a majority in the coming parliament holding over 90 per cent of its seats, which is precisely the statement both the MB and the Wafd wanted to make by pulling out, said political analyst Diaa Rashwan. "This will impact the presidential elections in 2011," he told Al-

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The Brotherhood's zero

Amira Howeidy examines what the failure of Egypt's biggest opposition force to win a single seat means.

Despite the widespread pessimism of sceptics ahead of last Sunday's elections, zero was one word that was not used in assessing the Muslim Brotherhood's chances.

The results could not have been a greater contrast to the group's performance in the 2005 elections which were held over three rounds. In round one alone they secured easy wins in 60 seats. A security clampdown on the Brotherhood's candidates in the second and third rounds hampered their progress yet still they ended with 88 seats in parliament, the biggest electoral gain in the MB's history.

Official statements, and information leaked to the media as early as last spring, suggested that a growing policy of zero tolerance towards the group would result in "minimal" representation in the coming parliament. That said, most observers estimated anything between 15 to 50 MPs.

A report published in the privately owned *Al-Masry Al-Yom* on 14 May by Islamic expert Ammar Ali Hassan alleged that a "deal" between the ruling National Democratic Party and the opposition had been concluded in an attempt to marginalise the Brotherhood in the

Exposition

The Factors that Led to the Egyptian Revolution

spread through crowds in Cairo, and demonstrations began to rise in number and intensity throughout Egypt.

11 February 2011: Massive protests in response to Mubarak's speech continued in many Egyptian cities. At 6:00 p.m. local time, Suleiman announced Mubarak's resignation and that the Supreme Council of Egyptian Armed Forces would assume leadership of the country.

13 February 2011: The Supreme Council of Egyptian Armed Forces dissolved Egypt's parliament and suspended the Constitution. The council also declared that it would hold power for six months or until elections could be held, whichever came first. ElBaradei urged the council to provide more details to the Egyptian people regarding its plans. Major protests subsided but uncertainty remained, and many pledged to keep returning to Tahrir square until all demands had been met.

1 February 2011: Mubarak addressed the people and offered few concessions. He promised that he would not run for another term in the September 2011 elections. He also promised political reforms. He said that he would stay in office only to ensure a peaceful transition of authority.

2 February 2011: Violence increased as Mubarak supporters met anti-government protestors. President Mubarak, in interviews with various news agencies, refused to step down. International journalists and news agencies were exposed to violence; people suspected that Mubarak was actively increasing instability as a way to step in and end the protests.

5 February 2011: Protests in Cairo and throughout the nation continued. Egyptian Christians held Sunday Mass in Tahrir Square, protected by Muslims. Negotiations began between Egyptian Vice President Omar Suleiman and opposition representatives. Suleiman offered political and constitutional reforms while other members of the Mubarak regime accused nations, including the US, of interfering in Egypt's affairs.

10 February 2011: Mubarak formally addressed Egypt amid reports of a possible military coup, but instead of his expected resignation he stated his powers would transfer to Vice President Suleiman, and he would remain in Egypt as its head of state. Resentment and frustration

Egyptian Revolution of 2011

Timeline

25 January 2011: Inspired by Tunisia's Revolution, widespread non-violent protests against the government of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak broke out. Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians gathered in Cairo as well as in almost all other cities throughout Egypt. There were reports of some casualties among both civilians and police.

28 January 2011: The "Day of Rage" protests began. Shortly after Friday prayers, hundreds of thousands gathered in Cairo and other Egyptian cities. Opposition leader Mohammed ElBaradei traveled to Cairo to participate. The police withdrew completely, and the Egyptian government ordered the military to assist police. International fears of violence grew, and several cases of murder, robbery, burning the headquarters of the police as well as the ruling National Democratic Party were recorded.

29 January 2011: Protests continued and curfew was imposed, but protests continued throughout the night. The military reportedly refused to obey orders to use live ammunition against protesters.

The present book is an attempt to document the Egyptian Revolution 2011 by collecting articles and news from world news agencies that tackled the Egyptian uprising. The book is arranged chronologically in the sense that it follows the same orders in which the actual evens related to the Revolution had taken place. The book is divied into two parts: one part containing news and articles from newspapers and magazines written in English, and another part containing other news and articles from newspapers written in Arabic. Both parts of the book follow the same framework.

off to put their plans into practice. Streets and squares teemed with them. They did not go back to their signed-out accounts until the kicked off their tyrant-rulers. They signed in only to announce the happiest news ever heard or read: Game is over and the tyrant is forced to step down.





while wide protests were sweeping Yemen, Algeria, and Bahrain. It seems that the revolutionary extension will not cease until it eliminates corruption, oppression, and injustice in the whole Arab world.

It remains to comment on how the Arab authorities used the internet as a mechanism for containing the youth and driving their attention away from the corruption embedded in the governing regime. In other words, the Arab governments encouraged the youth to spend their time surfing the internet, among other things, in order to help them to peacefully get rid of their frustration due to poverty, unemployment, diseases, and the circulation of corruption on all levels. Ironically, the very mechanism of containment turned to be a mechanism of subversion or revolt against the regime itself. That is, hundreds of thousands of young people find their way to Facebook and other social communication websites. There, they exchange knowledge about the coercion, oppression, and corruption circulating in their countries. Their Facebook accounts, groups, and pages turn out to be a fierce tool of subversion against the ruling regimes in the Arab world. They took decisions, put plans, and on the decisive day, they left their keyboards, signed out their Facebook accounts, and set

Although Bouazizi died two weeks later, his death gave birth to a new spirit of liberation not only in Tunisia, but also in the whole Arab world. Using Facebook YouTube, and Twitter as mechanisms of protest against a coercive and oppressive police system in the Arab world, young people throughout the Arab countries communicate and vow to go out in mass demonstrations. After the success of the Tunisian Revolution in getting rid of Bin Ali, the spirit of liberation moved to Egypt. On January 25, the national Day of the police, hundreds of thousands of young people demonstrate throughout Egypt in response to calls through Facebook and Twitter. As protests increased, the Egyptian authorities restricted access to the internet, a step which turned out to be unsuccessful in ending demonstrations. On January 28, the Friday of Anger, the police withdrew from the streets, an unexpected decision whose objective has not yet been fathomed. Events developed quickly and a new revolution was born. Led by the Egyptian youth, the Egyptian people eventually succeeded in creating one of the greatest and peaceful revolutions in history, forcing Mubarak to step down after more than thirty years in office.

The spirit of revolution and liberation seems to circulate freely now. While this book was in print, an uprising broke out in Libya,

Egyptian elections for the people's assembly witnessed a widespread case of election fraud, which aimed to assure the domination of the Democratic National Party and the exclusion of the opposition, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood, paving the way for either Mubarak or his son Gamal to be reelected for the presidency in 2011. Similarly, in Tunisia young people's suffering from unemployment and poverty became unbearable. On December 17, a twenty-six year old university graduate street vendor called Muhamed Bouazizi set fire on himself after a Tunisian policewoman called Fadia Hamdi had slapped him. Bouazizi, like many other young Tunisians, suffered from unemployment. He tried to secure a living just by selling some vegetables. The police, however, pursued him everywhere and seized his goods. When he went to local authorities to complain, they insulted him and kicked him out. Boiled form within, Bouazizi set fire on himself in front of the local authorities who did nothing but laughing while he was burning.



social justice. The demonstrators were mostly young people who got acquainted through Facebook and Twitter. The tension in Egypt continued and culminated in an Egyptian Revolution, the greatest revolution that Egypt has ever witnessed. President Mubarak's decision to step down on February 11 is the story dénouement which crowned the hard efforts and sacrifices of the Egyptian youth.

Apart from these forty-two days which resemble the climax of a story, the Egyptian and Tunisian story started with an exposition which paved the way for such climax. The story started several decades before when both Mubarak and Bin Ali came to power in both Egypt and Tunisia. With the two presidents, both countries came to suffer from the absence of religious and political freedom, the circulation of corruption in all levels, the spread of poverty, the lack of health care, nepotism, favoritism, bribery, filth, unemployment, illegal marriage, torture in the police stations, election fraud, the deterioration of education and scientific research, and the imbalance between prices and wages. This was the tragic scene played on the Egyptian and Tunisian stage for many years.

However, there were direct factors that led to the eruption of the uprising in the two countries. It is well-known now that the last

Introduction

The last few months in the life of the Arab world, particularly Egypt and Tunisia, remind me of the development taken place in the plot of a novel or short story. A short story usually starts with an exposition in which a general idea about the characters, setting, and events is given. Bit by bit, development occurs and conflict begins to emerge. Things in the short story continue to complicate until they reach a climax, which is the highest point in the development of events. Following the climax, a dénouement is introduced in which problems are solved and conflict is alleviated.

The first forty-tow days in the year 2011 represented a turning point as well as the climax in the story of struggle and conflict between corruption and the demand for democracy and equality in the Arab world. The climax of the Arab story started on the New Year's Eve 2011 which witnessed the famous church bombing in Alexandria, a bloody event presaged the advent of a gloomy year of the Muslim-Copts tense relations in Egypt. This was immediately followed by a much bloodier event, namely the Tunisian Revolution which forced President Bin Ali to run away. Few days later, on January 25, demonstrations broke out in Egypt calling for equality, freedom, and

For all those who died

and sacrificed their lives

so that we might live



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